

January 30, 2021

RE: Save East Arlington Wetlands

Dear Sr. or Madam,

We have lived in Arlington, on Dorothy Road for 8 ½ years now. During this time, we have experienced an increase in flooding on our street affecting not only us but all our neighbors whose house basements have flooded several times. It seemed that the city water drainages close to our properties were constantly blocked, not allowing the constant flow of water during heavy rains. Although in the last 2 years the city has sent working crews to clean the drainages at least once a year, the flooding issues for our neighborhood continue. In addition, apart from our street, the fields close to the Wetlands, Thorndike and Magnolia, also get soaked with water during heavy rains, affecting the Town's schedule for sports activities year after year.

The proposed development is very concerning to us. If we are currently experiencing flooding issues, by eliminating the "buffer zone" offered by the Wetlands to absorb excess water, we can expect worse flooding and issues with potential structural damage to home foundations increasing for current residents on Dorothy road. Additionally, if built, new residents on the new proposed development will be leaving on top of a wetland and facing similar water challenges (if anything else, they will be exiting their property into a flooded zone).

Although we are very supportive of building more affordable housing in Arlington, the Wetlands are not the appropriate space to build. By trying to address the gap of more affordable housing with the proposed Mugar development, Arlington township and its residents will face new significant problems and costly unintended consequences trying to manage flooding, maintenance of parks/recreational spaces, increased traffic in the area, crowding of public Hardy elementary school, just to name a few.

We hope the town of Arlington makes the right decision to protect the wetlands, a valuable ecosystem that has helped this city with the management of flooding risks in East Arlington. With the current reality of climate change we will get more rain and more flooding; if we destroy the natural environment, a water buffer zone for the community which reduces these risks, we will have bigger and more expensive problems to solve.

Thank you,
Rafael Curiel and Carmen Garcia-Curiel
Owners

Note: we are also submitting pictures and videos of 4 separate flooding incidents we experienced and were able to record in 2017, 2018 and 2019.