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Dear Chairman Klein and honorable members of the ZBA,

I would like to voice a strong opposition to the Thorndike Place development, on behalf of my family and also several of my adjacent neighbors who have not been able to be involved with contacting the ZBA due to language and/or technology hindrances. I am attaching Heather Keith-Lucas' responses to the ZBA's draft decision as I fully agree with the issues she raised in the document.

I am also concerned for the future residents of Thorndike Place who do not have a voice in this current situation. Imagine you move in with the shiny promises of affordable housing and car-free living. You quickly realize that there is no grocery store within walking distance so you rent a Bluebike to ride the 4 miles round trip to Stop n Shop to get groceries, but only what you can carry on your back and praying the eggs won't break. This is not enough to eat and you can't keep making this trip every day with a family to feed.

So you do a car share, if you can find a rental car close enough to walk to, and if there is even one available since the other 300 tenants of your building have the same idea. But the costs for renting a car for each and every errand, purchase, doctor's appointment, grocery trip, bank transaction, UPS drop off, and taking kids to and from daycare every day gets so frequent and expensive that you might as well own a car. So then you buy one and realize that it takes almost an hour to get out of your neighborhood on Lake St and then once you get on the highway you're gridlocked on route 2 which is backed up mornings and afternoons and you can't get to work on time.

You resort back to using the T, which is a 25 min walk or about an hour round trip, dragging your kids back and forth, hauling a stroller, and try to cram in the crowded train for every single errand or appointment or purchase. On the daily walk in the rain, sleet, or snow you notice the houses across Thorndike field are floating in water every time it rains, and you think how unsuitable it was to build on such wet land. Your shoes are now ruined so you make a mental note to buy sturdy rain boots for you and your family, yet another errand to run, since you will need to routinely trudge through the

water and mud, as well as the discarded drug needles dumped for decades on the Mugar Wetlands.

Then you find out that your newly purchased car and belongings are wet and damaged from flooding in your garage and storage room, and you don't know who to hold accountable. There's also mold from the frequent flooding and water accumulation, and you and your kids are getting respiratory illnesses from it, and you don't know who to hold accountable. There is a rat infestation in your building because the existing rat problem in the neighborhood is now worse, and they carry more diseases for you and your family. Your kid gets hit by a car since there is way too much traffic in the neighborhood, but you don't know who to hold accountable for it, and don't have the money to hire investigators and lawyers to prove it could have been prevented and trace the legal liability.

You find out that your neighbors have experienced and raised these **exact** issues **publicly** in public hearings and public documents for years, and yet this building was still allowed to go up. And you are politically powerless and economically disadvantaged, and don't have the money to hire lawyers and litigate for your rights. And by the way you will be evicted in less than 20 years because these apartments are actually meant to be expensive— they only used an affordable housing loophole in order to push their project through based on inconsistent environmental safety metrics. And by this time the developers and their lawyers are long gone with your money in their pockets. There's no one accountable.

Because you should just be grateful that some rich white developers let you pay for a place to live for a few years, with no consideration to your quality of life and your frustrations of daily life, as a poor person of color. And isn't this how insidious systemic oppression works in this country? So the question is whether this group wants to be complicit in the powerful exploiting the powerless for their own gain, or say a clear NO to promoting this system of social and racial injustice.

Thank you,
Anna Kukharskyy
34 Mott St.