

30 May 2023

Town of Arlington
Select Board
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Attn: Ashley Maher, Select Board Administrator

Dear Ms. Maher:

We are residents of 230 Massachusetts Avenue in East Arlington.

Last week we received a certified letter letting us know that the abutting property, 232 Massachusetts Avenue, has applied for a license to open a liquor store and smoke shop at that address.

We very strongly oppose the addition of this business in Capitol Square.

Such an establishment abutting us would seriously diminish our property values. In addition, liquor stores and smoke shops, by their nature, have late hours and clientele that run in and out for items. It will also cause us some serious traffic issues because of the number of people visiting it for quick stops to pick up cigarettes or cigars, as well as hard liquor. The business that has applied for this establishment is a large company with other smoke shops located in the Boston area. There are two wine/liquor stores within less than a mile radius of us, and other package stores in Arlington and North Cambridge, all quite close. Our neighborhood does not need to add one more to this area. The previous occupant at that address was a dry cleaning business; it was already an issue for us, as clients would block our driveway frequently, while people went in to the cleaners.

And we are strongly opposed to ANY kind of smoke shop, at all, in our neighborhood. In addition to our opposition concerning the nature of this overall business application, it goes beyond having a package store there. A smoke shop is a really terrible idea. These shops aid and abet young people to develop addictions to tobacco and tobacco products (see this link to the Town of Arlington regulations concerning the restrictions of the sale of tobacco products, and the massive health problems for those addicted: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/25094/637625588975830000>). We believe we live in a town that values the care and well-being of all of our citizens, particularly our young residents. Our town should NOT be open to the sale and distribution of tobacco related or pot related businesses.

We submit our very strong opposition to this proposal.

Sincerely,
Susanna J. Fichera and Michael W. Mahan
230 Massachusetts Avenue, #5
Arlington, MA 02494