

Nadia Khan

From: Dylan Ross <dylan.e.ross@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 11:01 AM
To: City Council; Nadia Khan
Subject: 727 Centre St Special Permit: Abutter Concerns

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Dear Members of the Land Use Committee,

I am writing regarding the special permit application at 727 Centre St. I was made aware of this project just this week when I received the legal notice in the mail. When I contacted the number listed, Nadia was kind enough to send me the plans.

For background, my family are immediate abbutters to 727 Centre St, on 11 Richmond Rd, and have views of the house from more than half of our rooms as well as our backyard. In its current condition, it is the largest and most imposing house on the block, but is architecturally and aesthetically pleasing. Upon review of the plans, I find the additions create an even more imposing structure, that in my opinion ruins the architecture of the house and is visually offensive. I want to point out the rear elevations on the plan do not include the large existing dormer, which adds to its imposing nature.

These additions will be highly visible for both my family, as well as the public while at the stoplight at the intersection of Cabot St. and Centre St. From an objective perspective, I was very surprised at the proposal to increase the FAR to 42% in excess of the allowable level! These additions are simply too big and unattractive.

While there may be one, I cannot think of a justification for the need or a demonstrated hardship for allowing these additions. Is there precedent for approving this type of permit request? I surely hope not, and would not like to see one set.

I plan on joining the Tuesday public hearing. I would prefer not to stand up against my neighbor in a public forum for obvious reasons. I wish this project had been discussed with me sooner.

I would be happy to further discuss my feedback/concerns with any member of the land use committee prior to the meeting.

Regards,
Dylan & Jessica Ross
11 Richmond Rd
617-304-4821