

December 2, 2016

Dear City Council Members:

Re: Washington Place Scheme Dated November 22, 2016

As an opening salvo, I am a resident of Foster Street, an immediate abutter on the east end of the proposed development. I am not opposed to redevelopment of the area in question if within current zoning restrictions; I certainly am not opposed to providing/increasing affordable housing. For 20 years I have provided affordable housing to my tenants.

What I am opposed to is the most recent Washington Place scheme (dated November 22, 2016) and presented by petitioners at the November 27 public hearing. The scheme presents a setback of 90 feet for the west end and middle of the proposed development. The east end has a setback of 45 feet. This is troubling to say the least and I believe it was misrepresented at the hearing that there would be a 90 foot setback for all of Foster Street.

I ask that the Council request a revised scheme with NO part of the development closer than 90 feet. to residential abutters. Additionally, the loading dock should be removed from the north east wing of the proposed development and located away from neighborhood residents.

What is being proposed by the petitioner in its present ideation is a life changer for the people living in the surrounding area. Looming buildings, lights, noise, traffic, environmental uncertainties, and an enormous increase in population to name a few. It is also a changer for the city and how the future will smile or frown upon its new image. If the developer is to earn respect, he needs to be more open to compromise regarding massing and density and the Council should insist that he to do so. Given that those of us who live next to the project will have our lives and homes compromised, it is not too much to expect compromise from the developer.

Thank you. You have a tough job ahead.

Respectfully,

Bette White  
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