

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:04 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Orr Block- Anti

From: Ellen Serino
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 5:22 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Orr Block- Anti

Dear Mr Olson:

Please forward my alarm at the outsized project designed to be crammed into the Orr Block. It is too tall, too undersupplied with parking, and out of proportion to the neighborhood. Current zoning guidelines should be used. The developer's overspending on the parcel is his error, and the hapless abutters should not be forced to have their property negatively affected by shadows, stronger winds, excessive traffic and parking demands because the developer does not include sufficient parking. Zip cars are insufficient to offset the shortage. Fewer apartments are needed, and more underground parking, and only currently allowable heights. All this stress on mixed use projects, with lots of retail, goes against the trends that the nation has been seeing as more people shop on line, as with Pea Pod and restaurant take out services, and Amazon. We see too many vacant commercial spaces already, and fewer parking spaces. The project as envisioned by the developer belongs far, far away, with huge setback, and much more parking. I do not understand how some councilors seem to feel that building more shop fronts means consumers have more money to spend. Bigger is NOT always better, and there is less need now for more housing. The Prudential building has no more space for residents than the Back Bay brownstones, but the brownstones look more inviting, are easier to evacuate in the event of an emergency, and have human scale, and do not have the gale force winds at the ground level as a result of winds being deflected by the building height. Even at the fourth story these effects are noticeable. This project, as it is now envisioned, will not create more income for the city, but would destroy the neighborhood and ignore the rights of quiet enjoyment of the neighbors. I am not against development, just lack of consideration for others. This is like the movie, Super Size Me.

Sincerely,
Ellen Serino
12 Hamlin Road, Newton, MA