

October 23, 2013

Mr. John Fitzgerald
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

RE: The Boston Garden Project (BGP)

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald:

There are benefits to the BGP:

Improvements to the streetscape along Causeway Street with its revitalization.

Improved safety and quality of life.

The inclusion of an affordable supermarket, which the North End/West End has been advocating for over a dozen years.

The new housing units will help in the need to loosen up the tight housing market.

The new pedestrian circulation between Causeway Street, North Station, the Garden and the MBTA is a much-needed improvement.

The Parking Garage will help in absorbing some of the additional density of usage.

Some Concerns:

The impact, if any, on the protected Old North Church view corridor.

The location of the affordable housing units, if not in the proposed development, where will they be located?

Where and how much open space is available to the public?

The concentration of risk due to sheer numbers to be evacuated from the tower in case of fire or other emergencies particularly roof top evacuations of the 600 ft. tower will be problematic.

Has the Boston Fire Department performed all the appropriate studies to meet any emergency including how to stage rescue operations?

I will repeat the same questions that I asked at the NEWRA Community Meeting in the North End concerning the underground utilities – water, sewer, gas and electric. Will the community be allowed to see the studies and the reports that indicated that capacity and safety will not be compromised by the addition of large residential towers? I was assured that the studies were completed and would be made available. As of today no information on this issue has been shared with the community and no follow-up meeting scheduled.

I would be remiss if I did not relate to you that the North End neighborhood has serious concerns about the 600 ft height of one tower. Would it be possible to reduce this tower to perhaps 500 ft?

At some time in our life all of us have had to swallow an unpleasant pill however, if there was a reward the pill would be better tolerated. It seems to me that this project includes rewards.

Sincerely


Nancy J. Caruso