Dear Mr. Cohen:

As a Back Bay resident, I am writing to you to express my opposition to endorsing the 1000 Boylston Street Article 80 Project Notification Form (PNF) design as currently proposed.  The size in height and bulk far exceeds anything previously envisioned for this site, and is totally inappropriate for the space. It does not in any way enhance the neighborhood or fit into the scale of existing buildings, nor does it provide any, much needed green space at the ground level.

 I am also very concerned that this site has not been properly vetted for traffic concerns. Directly across the street from this site is a Boston Fire Department building which houses Engine 33 and Ladder 15. Engine 33 consistently ranks among the most active fire companies in the city and responds to over 4,000 incidents per year, while Ladder 15 responds to around 3,800 per year. With the addition of 30 Dalton, the new Four Seasons and this project all adding additional underground parking spaces to the existing Hilton, Sheraton and Prudential parking garages, the amount of traffic converging on the intersection of Boylston, Dalton and Hereford Streets will be greatly increased. This will make it even more difficult for Engine 33 and Ladder 15 to respond to emergencies where every second of delay could be critical.

The taller of two proposed towers is almost as tall as the Hancock tower and nearly equals that of the Prudential; at various times of the year, it will cast new shadow completely across the neighborhood, the Commonwealth Ave. Mall, the Esplanade and all the way into the Charles River. These precious public spaces, both of which are supported by substantial private donations and investments of volunteer time and effort to maintain and improve them, are enjoyed year round by large and sometimes very large numbers of neighborhood residents and many visitors

Please take the long term view and do not permit the developers to ignore the design considerations imbedded in the Civic Vision and the widespread concerns of the neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Baker