



STONYBROOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
jamaica plain, massachusetts

November 16, 2011

Stonybrook Neighborhood Association  
Washington/Burnett/McBride Street Subcommittee  
C/O 31Plainfield St.  
Jamaica Plain, Ma. 02130

Mr. Harry R. Collings  
The Exclusive Real Estate Company  
Ten Derne Street  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your response. We really do appreciate that it is disappointing to be at such an impasse. We don't want an empty abandoned warehouse any more than you want a stalled construction project.

As you know, the SNA's volunteer efforts have resulted in an unprecedented polling, analysis and feedback of community opinion on this project. We have provided much of this information to you in the form of our survey results, our alternative site plan and in our two meetings in an effort to preserve everything you require for a successful project as well as help realize a great contribution to the neighborhood.

This is a time of huge change for this section of Jamaica Plain. The MBTA has made land available (Arborway Yard), a new charter school (MATCH) has taken over the old Beth el AME Church, and the Casey Overpass Project planning (led by MassDOT) is well underway. The importance of 3521-3529 Washington Street in setting a precedent for this wide-sweeping change is very clear to our membership. There is a lot at stake for the neighborhood with this project, and it has the potential to be a lead development for this stretch of Washington Street - if done well.

As of our last meeting on October 6, in its current proposed configuration, the project does not fit with the comprehensive goals that the SNA set for its vision of the Washington Street Corridor. Over the course of our meetings, the neighborhood has been clear that it wants a more universal and human-scaled design that is less car dependent and more embracing of other transportation modalities. In addition, the quantity of residences, the scale of the storage facility, and the design of the retail space are all major issues that have yet to be reconciled in any significant way. The distance between what you propose and what the neighborhood wants is great, and we were very disappointed to find that very little of what we suggested was incorporated into your



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current configuration. As it stands, there is no support from the full membership of the SNA for your plan.

We hope that you will revisit our suggestions, and rather than taking the time to meet again, send us a revised copy of your site plan when it comes closer to achieving what the neighborhood wants. We will be happy to review it and provide feedback.

Sincerely,

Carl Lowenberg and  
Frederick Vetterlein  
Co-Chairs for the SNA Steering Committee

Cc:  
John Fitzgerald – BRA  
Jullianne Dougherty – City of Boston  
State Rep. Liz Malia  
City Councilor Matt O'Malley  
City Councilor Feliz Arroyo