

Brighton Neighbors United

October 3, 2008

By email (mayor@cityofboston.gov) and by facsimile (617.635.2851)

Hon. Mayor Thomas Menino
1 City Hall Square, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02201-2013

Dear Mayor Menino,

Brighton Neighbors United (BNU) is a group of citizens who are committed to the preservation of Brighton's residential character, and to the improvement of the quality of life of all its residents. It is composed of a large number of members and active participants in the following Allston-Brighton civic groups:

Brighton Allston Improvement Association	Allston Civic Association
Chandler Pond Preservation Society	Presentation School Foundation
BC Campus Community Partnership Initiative	Brighton Garden Club
Allston-Brighton North Neighbors Forum	Brighton Elks
Allston-Brighton Community Development Corp.	Brighton Historical Society
MA County & Municipal Employees Retirees	57 Readers and Writers
Radnor Neighborhood Assoc.	Chandler Pond Neighbors Assoc.
Claridge House Condominium Board of Trustees (1933 Commonwealth Avenue).	

We are particularly concerned about the development plans of Boston College in the former St. John's Seminary site and the purchase and proposed conversion of 2000 Commonwealth Avenue. The Task Force that you appointed to oversee BC's development worked extremely hard to identify the community's views and reactions to the Institutional Master Plan. They wrote a balanced, well-argued comment letter that accurately represents the community's views and concerns. Dozens of residents also submitted letters and gathered nearly six hundred petition signatures, expressing concerns about Boston College's plans.

We are concerned that our voices are not being heard.

We understand that Kairos Shen, Chief Planner, has met with you and also met privately, during the comment period, with Father Leahy, SJ, and other representatives of Boston College. We request that the same courtesy and fairness be extended to us, and respectfully ask to meet with you at City Hall or a location of your choosing, as soon as possible. We are hopeful that we may reach an outcome that will be fair, transparent, and adherent to the established statutory (Article 80) process.

We appreciate that you have been steadfastly advocating for neighborhoods in Boston, and we are hopeful that you will continue to work with us to maintain and build a community that attracts families and long-term residents.

We look forward to hearing from you about a proposed meeting time and date. Please feel free to contact Diane Kline (on behalf of Brighton Neighbors United) at Klineopa@msn.com or 617-787-3257.

Kind regards,
Brighton Neighbors United