



BRIGHTON NEIGHBORS UNITED

Boston, February 10, 2009

Open Letter to Members of the Allston-Brighton Boston College Community Task Force:

On behalf of Brighton residents and supporters of Brighton Neighbors United (BNU) we would like to respectfully request that the Task Force hosts a public meeting, as soon as possible, to clarify the following issues:

- a) The Task Force's support for Boston College's plan to locate a 150-bed dormitory on the former archdiocese site, in a complete reversal of the position it adopted in its September 5, 2008 letter to the Mr. John Fitzgerald, of the BRA. In that letter, the Task Force stated that "The majority of the Task Force believes that no undergraduate dormitories should be built on the former seminary grounds giving widespread community opposition to siting residence halls on this part of the campus and because of the College's ability to house an additional 500 students in its traditional campus (p.12)." BNU believes that an explanation for the Task Force's change in position is all the more necessary in light of the opposition to the siting of the said dormitory expressed by Mayor Menino, Representatives Honan and Moran's and Councilor Ciommo during the January 29th BRA Board meeting to evaluate the BC IMP, to say nothing of the large majority of public comments on the BC IMP that were submitted to the BRA.
- b) The nature of the Task Force's plans to obtain, with the aid of the BRA, an agreement with Boston College "to halt further institutional expansion over the 10-year master plan" (as per the Task Force's January 28 letter to Mr. Fitzgerald, p. 2)
- c) The specific actions that the Task Force will deploy to guarantee that the conditions it established for its support to Boston College's athletic facilities are included in the cooperation agreement that will be forged between the College, the BRA, and the community (namely, that the College be prohibited from lighting the baseball stadium and softball field for intramural purposes, from installing any lights whatsoever on the multi-purpose field on Lake Street, from using these fields every day, all day, and from using artificial turf anywhere in the so-called Brighton campus's (as per Task Force letter of September 5, 2008, pp. 3-4)).
- d) The criteria according to which the Task Force will help determine the size and the composition of the Athletics Advisory Committee, which should "advise and comment on operational and management related to the Brighton Athletics Center," as stated on p. 7 of the Boston College's IMP Supplement of 01/29/09.
- e) The role (if any) that the Task Force will play in the study, promised by BC and the BRA, of alternative locations for a 350-beds dormitory, which was originally proposed on the former archdiocese site.
- f) What role does the Task Force expect to play in the future over the course of BC's implementation of its IMP?

We make use of this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for the efforts made by the members of the Task Force throughout the BC IMP process. We look forward to the Task Force's clarifications of the issues listed above.

Sincerely,

Ram Rao and Abigail Furey
Co-Chairs, Brighton Neighbors United

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