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ENFIELD PLANNING DEPT.

2022 JUN 30 PM 3: 27 2022 JUN 30 PM 3: 27

Re: Felician Sisters project:

Testimony from Patrick Thibodeau, 20 Cora. St. Enfield.

Dear PZC members,

It may take courage to approve the Felician Sisters housing plan. You will be facing some neighborhood opposition and that will make it hard. But there is no good reason to reject the plan and many reasons to support it.

The opposition is using fear of the other; the opponents have made it clear that they see affordable housing residents as a threat of some kind.

In an op-ed on Oct. 25 2021, in the Enfield Patch, Montessori School parents raised some concerns: "Significant safety risks include exposure to outside/unknown adult," and "over-taxation of safety resources, increased potential for crime."

These concerns are a dog whistle that says that people who live in affordable housing are trouble and not as good as those who already own homes here. I believe the points raised by the parent letter extend to some in the Enfield Street community. The concern about crime and emergency services should be dismissed for what they are, prejudicial.

The minimum income is \$40,000 for these units, and the people who live here will be working people, essential workers, young parents, and so on. This housing will bring stability and economic certainty to a town that is seeing significant rental and home sales increases. You won't hear from the people who benefit from this, but you need to think about them.

The other reasons for opposing this are just props pushed in front of the real issue.

This won't impact traffic, not in the least. I live off Raffia on Cora. There are about 40 houses on my street and many with two to three cars, and we have more traffic flowing out, in total, of Cora, Dale, Play, and Welch, all next to each other, than this development will ever have. And that's not counting all the other streets off Raffia. And Raffia is a narrow road with no room to get around a delivery truck. Enfield and South are two of our best streets.

The family and the senior housing go together. Senior health is improved by living in age-mixed communities.

This won't hurt the historic district. The new construction will be invisible from Enfield Street and up against I-91. The people on Enfield Street won't even notice. It has an enormous buffer.

We need this type of housing, our young people need it, and our seniors need it, and there are no good reasons to oppose it.

The defeat of this project will stain this town and affirm what many have suspected but didn't want to believe. Please don't let that happen.

Sincerely,

Patrick Thibodeau
20 Cora St.
Enfield CT 06082