

Hi, I am Marcella Baruzzini. I took off work today because I wanted to be here to hear some of the decisions that are being made about the 11 story hotel project that is supposed to be built on Farwell and Cambridge. I also wanted to share some of my thoughts and feelings.

I love this lower east side neighborhood. I have lived here my whole life. I have seen it go through the good times and the bad times. I would like to preserve the charm and character of this area as do many others who live in this neighborhood who I have communicated with. This huge glassy 11 story structure that is proposed to be built at this location changes that drastically!

Larger crowds, more traffic, more crime, and less parking. This area can only withstand so much. It is already overcrowded. Instead of finding ways to make it more safe and secure we are increasing the traffic of cars and people. It is being turned into an amusement area.

The land lot across the street that was purchased to build a parking structure for the guests of the hotel and for Saint John's will be located across the street which will mean valet workers and guests will be crossing Farwell Avenue back and forth which will make it unsafe and complicate, interfere, and impede the flow of traffic.

Farwell is a high traffic street which brings many people from the east side to the city's center. There are many buses, bikes, cars, motorcycles, scooters, etc that use this pathway daily. The traffic flow will be disrupted during construction. There will be many delays. Two years is the projected time for completion of this project. That is a long period of time. What will be put in place to help with that?

The thought of many of us isn't necessarily to not replace the old structure that is there presently. The thought is not to replace it with a monstrous 11 story glass building but rather with a structure that better fits the area and will not cause so much disruption to the area.

Our focus is on the safety and betterment of all those in the area, not just the businesses. This proposed gigantic 11 story structure will impact those of us who live here the most during and after its construction daily. Please take that into consideration. Thank you,