

BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

December 4, 2015

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Executive Director

Gregory J. Galer, Ph.D.

Mr. Phil Cohen
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201

Re: Goddard House, 201 South Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plain

Dear Mr. Cohen,

The Boston Preservation Alliance is Boston's primary, non-profit advocacy organization that protects and promotes the use of historic buildings and landscapes in all of the city's neighborhoods. With 40 Organizational Members, 83 Corporate Members, and a reach of 35,000 friends and supporters we represent a diverse constituency advocating for the thoughtful evolution of the city and celebration of its unique character. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to offer comments on projects that impact the historic character of the city.

The Alliance expressed concern to BRA about the future of the historic Goddard House as early as 2013 when its vacancy made its future uncertain. We were pleased that the BRA emphasized the desirability of its preservation during the planning process for the South Huntington Corridor. That effort along with an evolving relationship between the Alliance and members of the development team has resulted in a cooperative process and a proposal we feel is of great benefit to the city and neighborhood.

Early in the design process, the project team for the Goddard House met with the Alliance to present initial plans and we have maintained a dialogue throughout the evolution of the design. This site presents many challenges, only one of which is how to preserve the historic Goddard House, a building with a particularly narrow floor plate. Understanding the limitations of the site, the demands of the neighborhood, and the programming requirements to make this project viable, we feel that the proponents have successfully woven together a strategy that preserves the historic building and landscape while maintaining viewsheds to the Jamaica Way and providing much-needed new housing.

Our specific feedback has addressed the design of the additions. We feel that appropriate additions on this site must be lower in height and smaller in scale than the Goddard House so that they do not overwhelm the character of the historic building. We also suggested that the design team consider muted, modern materials that are both different and deferent to the historic materials of the Goddard House. The Alliance feels that the current design has accomplished these goals successfully and

The Otis House
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that the historic building will remain the focal point on this site despite several new additions. We applaud the proponents' sensitive and thoughtful approach to this special and challenging site.

The Boston Preservation Alliance encourages the Boston Redevelopment Authority to approve this project. We look forward to continued dialogue with the proponent and the BRA as details evolve.

Sincerely,



Greg Galer
Executive Director

Cc: David Carlson, Boston Civic Design Commission