



June 8, 2016

"Helping you turn hard times into better times"

Dear Mayor Warren, Council President Lennon and City Councilors,

With a kind spirit, I present to you a Draft Resolution that was a piece of work produced in what I take to be good faith discussions involving Terry Morris, Esq. and me, around the Special Permit considerations pertaining to 1110 Chestnut Street. Having initially produced a draft at Atty. Morris' request, I am pleased to say that Atty. Morris produced a final draft that exceeds what I envisioned. In short the draft resolution, for your consideration acknowledges the process of the sale itself, the concerns of the Inspectional Services Department and the mutually shared interest of a "positive transition" to "a safe, serene and better home" for the six residents who signed the letter to you.

Since the completion of the draft resolution, I have heard a concern or two, which I would briefly and respectfully like to address. One comment seemed to indicate that perhaps my efforts were "enabling" the tenants. Life is subjective to interpretation for sure; and yet I would with all due respect see my efforts as relatively speaking the opposite of "enabling," rather as previously stated I tend to see the residents as heroic. People have lived in, what I will politely put as challenging circumstances, many for nearly twenty years or more. If moving was so easy, they would have done it previously.

Second, without going into great detail, people have asked me about myself, which I do not mind sharing, as I am writing a long book, and it sincerely could be a movie. In short; twenty years or so ago, I began to be faced with challenges, not really initiated by me that caused me to choose between the emotional health and well-being of my two sacred children and a fair amount of financial assets. As a deeply caring person, needless to say, I chose the emotional health and well-being of my children, one for the merit and two; I figured the finances would eventually return. The result is that my children have recently graduated college and I have developed the science of my work in becoming The World's Best Mediator. When I first moved my company to Newton in 2005; a then leading elected official for some reason stated something like: "Jon will substantially help the quality of life in Newton." I take those words to heart not as an embellishment of my ego, but as just the terrific commitment that I have to positive energy, fairness and goodness relating to anywhere that I may be; along with the excellent skills that I have developed.

Attorney Morris has done a terrific job on this, and has spoken to Councilor Crossley.

Sincerely,

Jon Myers
Jon Myers
cc: Terry Morris, Esq.

*If this passes great; otherwise
all will be forgiven.*

2016 JUN 11 AM 11:54
RECEIVED
JON MYERS
The World's Best Mediator
Newton City Clerk
DAVID A. MORRIS
Newton, MA 02459

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

June __, 2016

WHEREAS, the property at 1110 Chestnut Street ("the Property") was originally constructed circa 1875 by the Archdiocese of Boston and used as a rectory for St. Mary's church until 1948 after which time it was sold for use as a private residence;

WHEREAS, from 1952 to date the former rectory has been used as a *de facto*, if not *de jure*, lodging house containing several small apartments and single room occupancies created out of the large Victorian-era edifice that have provided a permanent home for persons in non-traditional households and a sanctuary for those in transitional life-style circumstances;

WHEREAS, one family, three generations of Turcottes (the "Family"), owners who lived there during that entire time and who opened their home to non-traditional households thereby addressing a serious need in Newton, a city in which such accommodations have disappeared amidst the city's growth and prosperity;

WHEREAS, the tides of time have eroded the family's ability to continue its current stewardship of their affordable lodgings in service to the otherwise unmet needs of the community;

WHEREAS, the Property has been cited for zoning and other safety violations by the city's Inspectional Services Department, which has ordered the Property to be vacated;

WHEREAS, the City Council has approved a special permit which will remediate the zoning and other violations and allow for restoration and rehabilitation of the Property into four dwelling units of moderate size;

WHEREAS, there are several long-term residents, still residing at the Property for whom immediate removal would prove a hardship due to health concerns, limited financial means and other issues of long-term tenancies;

WHEREAS the current and prospective owners have demonstrated a willingness to provide the time and resources to facilitate a positive transition for the residents that would effect a short-term solution by addressing the immediate life-safety issues;

WHEREAS, realizing a positive transition for the residents would be beneficial and achieve the interests of all concerned,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council respectfully request that Inspectional Services Department charged with the enforcement of the state regulations and local ordinances, do so with a caring and patient spirit and due regard for the dignity as well as the safety of the persons involved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council request that city's housing personnel reach out to the residents and make available any and all public resources and programs at its disposal that might be of assistance to the residents in their timely transition to a safe, serene and better home.