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February 24, 2016

Re: Relocation of the Taft School Students

Dear Members of the Development Review Board:

Thank you very much for reopening the hearing on 1 Mill Street. I would have been at the February 2nd meeting if I had been told the truth by the school district employee who has information on the relocation of the Taft School students. On January 20th I sent him an email asking for information about the relocation of these students. He wrote back there was nothing to tell me. When in fact, on December 21 the application for the zoning change from warehouse and labs to school use at 1 Mill Street had been submitted. One Mill Street is a very nice building. It's just not the right location for a school.

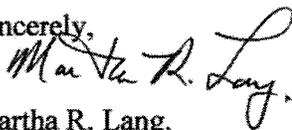
Why is the Burlington School District even considering renting space at 1 Mill Street for twenty-seven students when it is located less than twenty-five feet from a river? A child recently drowned at a day care center that was located on a river. Additionally, there are no sidewalks, bike paths, or pedestrian paths to this building, nor is there a safe drop off or pick area for the students. Therefore 1 Mill Street does not meet the Burlington codes for schools. Additionally, a school must be part of a neighborhood, connected by sidewalks, pedestrian paths, and bike paths. One Mill Street does not have any of these features. Finally, the Riverside/Colchester Avenue intersection near Mill Street is considered one of the most dangerous ones in Burlington. In fact, there is a special task force meeting on March 8th to study the problem at this intersection.

Finally, relocating the thirty elementary student from Taft School to St. Marks at 1251 North Avenue is not an option. Unlike Redstone Properties, St Marks has not even applied for a school zoning permit for the students to use their building, and it can't get one: it is located in a RL zone which does not allow school use. You will have no authority because they aren't even apply for a zoning permit for school use at 1251 North Avenue. I contacted Rebecca Holcombe, the secretary of education, about this problem and it is being dealt with by their general counsel.

The school department made \$1.8 M from the sale of the Taft School. The students being displaced from Taft School deserve, as good, if not better than what they are giving up. After two years later this is all they can find?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Martha R. Lang.