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Gregory J. Galer, Ph.D.

March 27, 2017

Mr. Michael Rooney
Boston Redevelopment Authority
Via email: Michael.Rooney@Boston.gov
Re: 159-201 Washington Street - St. Gabriel's Monastery, Brighton

Dear Mr. Rooney,

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. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on projects that impact the historic character of the city.

The Alliance continues to support the proposal to redevelop the St. Gabriel's site in Brighton. As we have stated in a previous comment letter, and at multiple public meetings and conversations with the proponent as well as the Brighton Allston Historical Society, we feel that this project rehabilitates the historic resources on the site and creates a welcoming campus for residents and visitors of Brighton.

In order to accomplish the necessary restoration and new construction on this site, the zoning needs to be adjusted. The Alliance supports zoning amendments and the creation of a Planned Development Area in order to accomplish the goals outlined by Cabot, Cabot, and Forbes.

While it can be challenging to balance the needs of a community during periods of growth and change, it is important to embrace projects like this that sensitively restore historic resources and preserve open space while adding much-needed housing. The proponents have made many alterations to accommodate feedback from the public and we feel the new St. Gabriel's campus will be an asset to Brighton and to Boston.

The Alliance supports the zoning amendments needed to accomplish this project.

Thank you,



Greg Galer
Executive Director

CC:

Rosanne Foley, Boston Landmarks Commission
Brona Simon, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Charlie Vasiliades, Brighton-Allston Historical Society
John Sullivan, Cabot, Cabot & Forbes

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