

January 14, 2023

To Mayor Wu,

The enclosed 66 letters and over 700 petition signers are evidence of widespread citizen and stakeholder opposition to the PDA Development Plan for Longwood Place whose 30 story buildings would shade large swaths of the Emerald Necklace parks in the Fenway. Both the size and duration of the shadows would permanently degrade historic, irreplaceable parks systems and deprive people of sunshine in their parks and parkways for several hours of the day and evening.

Unlike the Boston Common, the Fenway's historic parks have no legislative protection from shadow encroachment by large developments. However, the BRA of years ago cared about the value of our historic parks for everyone and created a special protected zone around them by adopting The Longwood Medical Area Interim Guidelines. This zoning overlay limits the amount and duration of shadows allowed, as well as dictates heights in areas proximate to the historic Emerald Necklace parks system. The LMA Guidelines are still in effect in Article 80, but they have been *disregarded* by the current BPDA and Skanska developers for Longwood Place -- at the expense of our public park land.

The BRA board will decide the fate of our valuable parks on Thursday January 19. As a further insult, we understand that 'mitigation' funding for a project that permanently impacts OUR historic, irreplaceable parkland will fund a study that creates future policy for development AROUND OTHER parks.


As city councilor, you co-authored a compelling piece on the Winthrop Square project that outlined the needs for clear process and inclusion of stakeholders. Here is what you said in your call for accountability and clear process:

“The proposed redevelopment of the Winthrop Square Garage site into a 775-foot Millennium Partners skyscraper has been touted as a great deal for Boston: some morning shadow cast on Boston Common and the Public Garden in exchange for a \$153 million windfall payout from the developer that has already been promised to various neighborhood parks and affordable housing projects. But this framing trivializes the four centuries of thoughtful caretakers who have carefully guarded the survival of our nation’s oldest city park and our city’s downtown backyard and breathing space.”

As a mayor elected by those who believed in your stalwart protection for the environment, please OPPOSE this project as currently proposed in the PDA Development Plan. Insist the BRA require SKANSKA to produce an amended plan that will follow the LMA Guidelines and reduce the massive and irreversible shadow impacts on our public parks that are in the current development plan. At a minimum, please require that any policy funded through the proposed degradation of our parks be required to be retroactively applied to the PDA.

Thank you for representing the many members of the public who strongly object to the City selling off our sunshine to a private developer.

Sincerely,



Fredericka Veikley and Marie Fukuda, co-chairs, Fenway Civic Association Open Space and Parks Committee

CC: Chief Arthur Jemison; Chief Mariama White-Hammond; Commissioner Ryan Woods; Councilors Kenzie Bok, Tania Anderson, Ed Flynn, Kendra Lara, Liz Breadon, Brian Worrell, Gabriela Coletta, Michael Flaherty, Ruthzee Louijeune, Julia Mejia, and Erin Murphy

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To Chief Jemison,

The enclosed 66 letters and over 700 petition signers are evidence of widespread citizen and stakeholder opposition to the PDA Development Plan for Longwood Place whose 30 story and duration of the shadows would permanently degrade historic, irreplaceable parks systems and deprive people of sunshine in their parks and parkways for several hours of the day and evening.

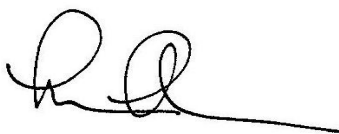
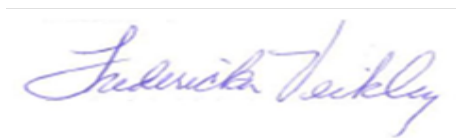
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Your board will decide the fate of our valuable parks on Thursday January 19. We further understand that 'mitigation' funding for a project that permanently impacts OUR historic, irreplaceable parkland will fund a study that creates future policy for development AROUND OTHER parks.

As both Chief of the BPDA and part of the Mayor's Cabinet, you have a role in transparency, clear policy, and accountability to citizens of this city. We ask you please OPPOSE this project as currently proposed in the PDA Development Plan. Insist your board require SKANSKA to produce an amended plan that will follow the LMA Guidelines and reduce the massive and irreversible shadow impacts on our public parks that are in the current development plan. At minimum, require that any policy funded through the proposed degradation of our parks be required to be retroactively applied to the PDA.

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To Chief White-Hammond,

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As Chief of Energy and Environment, you have a role in assuring the future of our environment and for transparency, clear policy, and accountability to citizens of this city. We ask you please OPPOSE this project as currently proposed in the PDA Development Plan. Insist the BPDA require SKANSKA to produce an amended plan that will follow the LMA Guidelines and reduce the massive and irreversible shadow impacts on our public parks that are in the current development plan. At minimum, require that any policy funded through the proposed degradation of our parks be required to be retroactively applied to the PDA.

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To Councilor Flynn,

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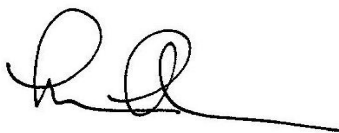
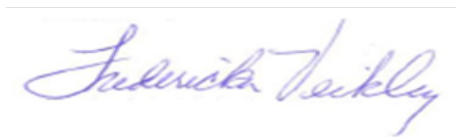
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As president of the City Council, you have a role in transparency, clear policy, and accountability to citizens of this city. We ask you please OPPOSE this project as currently proposed in the PDA Development Plan. Insist the BPDA require SKANSKA to produce an amended plan that will follow the LMA Guidelines and reduce the massive and irreversible shadow impacts on our public parks that are in the current development plan. At minimum, require that any policy funded through the proposed degradation of our parks be required to be retroactively applied to the PDA.

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To Councilor Bok,

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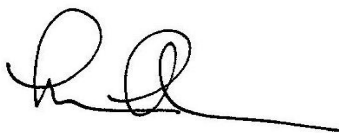
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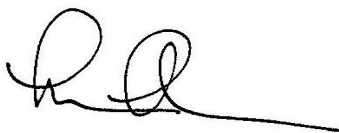
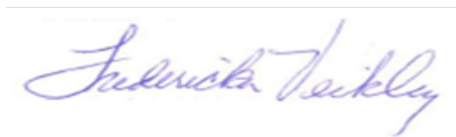
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To Chair Lara, Co-chair Breadon, and Committee members Worrell, Bok, and Coletta, Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks,

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As a committee, you have a role in protection of Boston's environment along with assurance of transparency, clear policy, and accountability in city processes that benefit parks and citizens. We ask you please OPPOSE this project as currently proposed in the PDA Development Plan. Insist the BPDA require SKANSKA to produce an amended plan that will follow the LMA Guidelines and reduce the massive and irreversible shadow impacts on our public parks that are in the current development plan. At minimum, require that any policy funded through the proposed degradation of our parks be required to be retroactively applied to the PDA.

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To Councilors Flaherty, Louijeune, Mejia, and Murphy,

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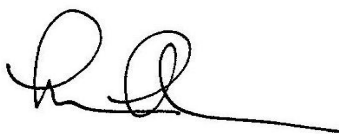
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