



BOSTON COLLEGE

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

November 11, 2019

Dear Neighbor,

I write to you today in my role as Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs at Boston College to raise concerns regarding the City of Newton's plans to seize by eminent domain 17 acres of BC's property at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway.

The Newton Community Preservation Committee has \$14 million in a fund for affordable housing, historic resources, open space, and recreation land, currently with at least 28 projects vying for funding. All of those projects—from affordable housing and public parks/playgrounds to historic preservation—would lose out if the Mayor and City Council proceed to direct the entire fund to pay for Boston College's land. The City also has additional urgent priorities to address that require funding, including schools in need of substantial upgrades, teacher salaries, fire stations, and the unfunded pension liabilities for municipal workers.

The City of Newton could have purchased the 300 Hammond Pond Parkway property during the 2014-2015 period, but declined. The City of Newton has appraised the value of the 17-acre parcel at \$15.2 million, but the current value of the property is likely far in excess of the amount budgeted by the City. If the City proceeds to take the land by eminent domain, the difference between Newton's appraisal and the award determined by the courts will be absorbed by Newton taxpayers. To give some land cost perspective, two years ago Hebrew College sold 7 acres for \$18 million and this fall, Newbury College's 8-acre campus sold for \$34 million.

Boston College has been a good neighbor and an engaged member of this community since 1913. Newton taxpayers deserve better than to be subjected to an ill-advised and expensive eminent domain proposal.

If you agree, please contact your Newton City Councilor at citycouncil@newtonma.gov or by calling 617-796-1210, and Mayor Ruthanne Fuller at rfuller@newtonma.gov or 617-796-1000.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Keady, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas J. Keady, Jr.
Vice President, Governmental and Community Affairs
Boston College