

Opposition to the 136-140 Worcester Street Redevelopment.

Sun 5/3/2020 10:32 PM

To: DL: Board of Selectmen <sel@wellesleyma.gov>; _ZBA <zba@wellesleyma.gov>

📎 1 attachments (418 KB)

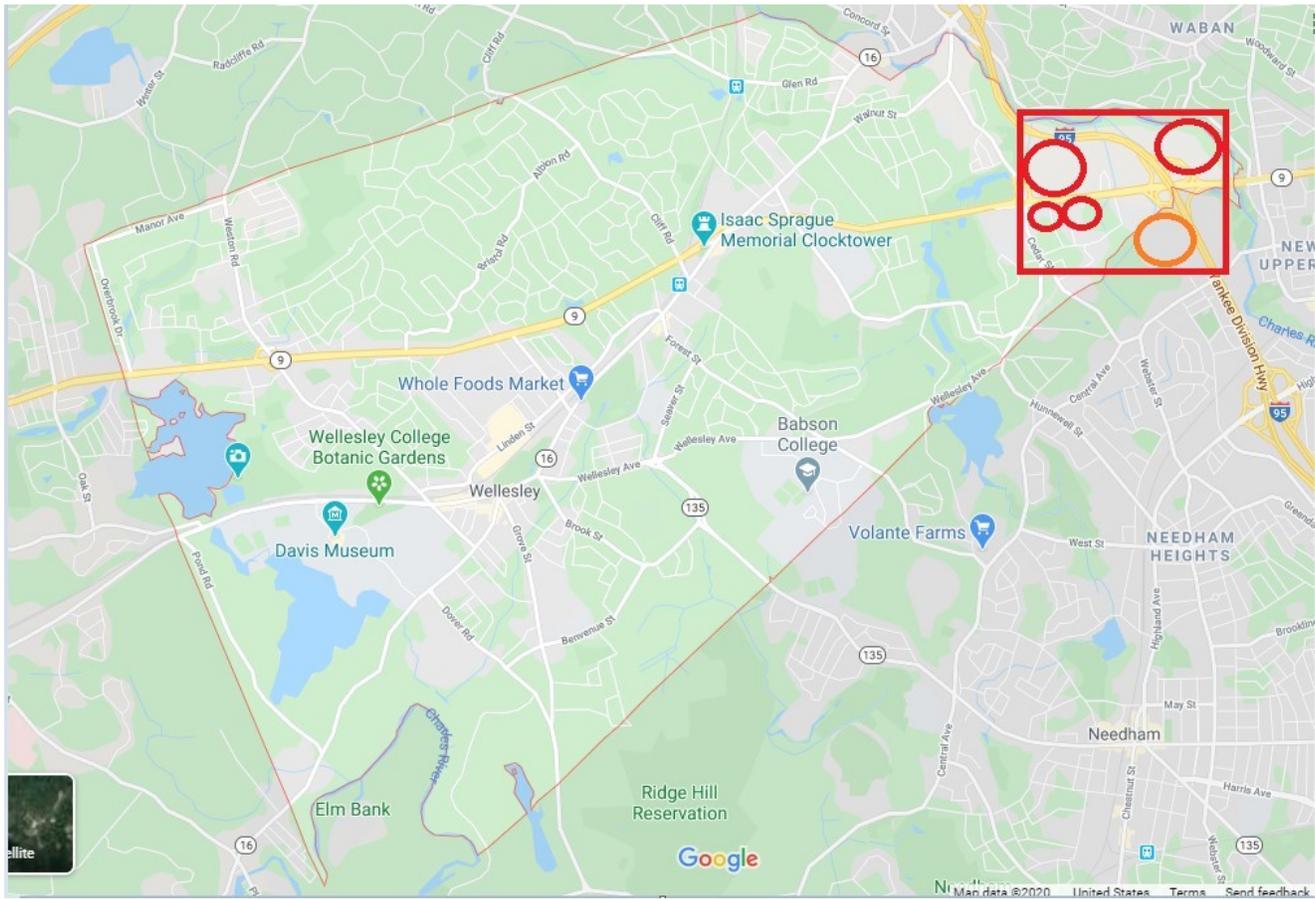
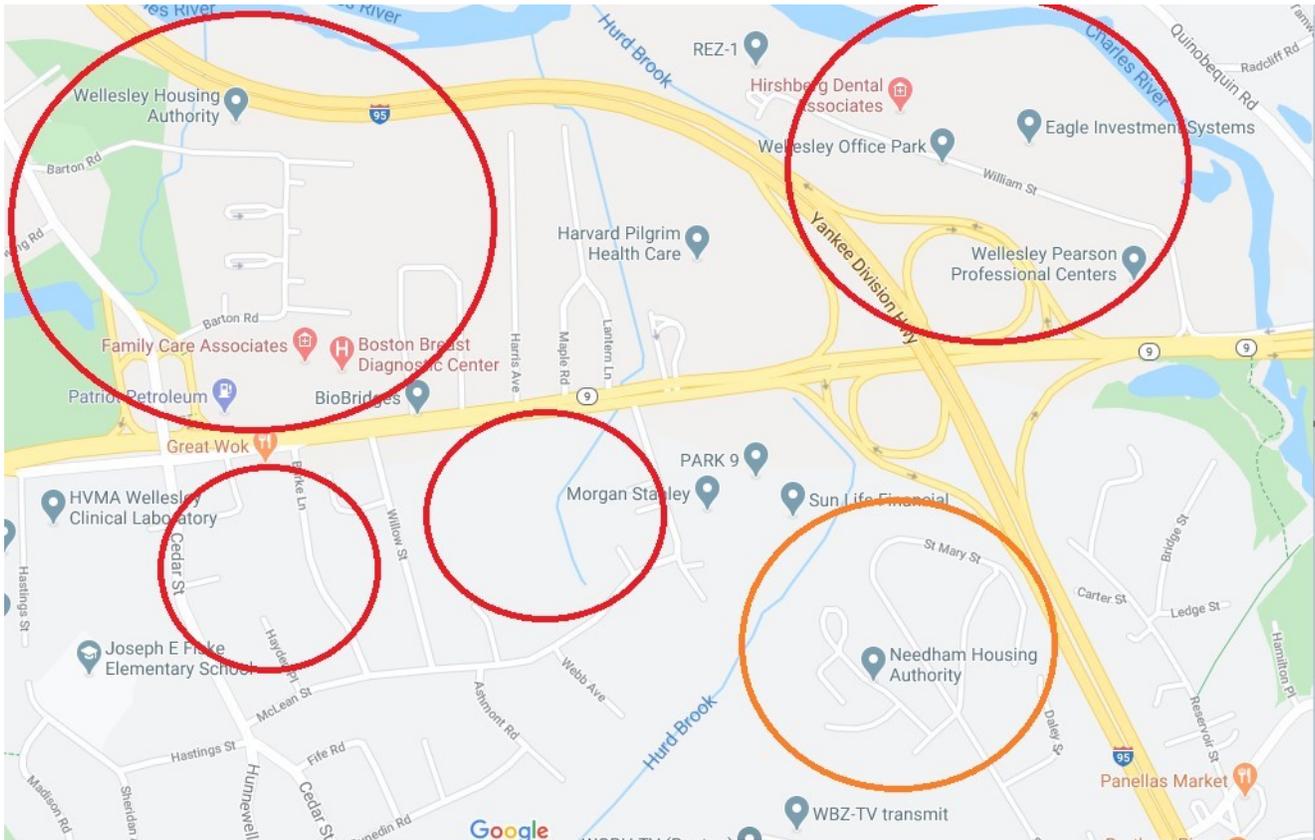
Map Showing Proposed and Existing.png;

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Good evening Sir, Madame:

I am a resident on the cul-de-sac directly opposite of the proposed 136-140 Worcester Street redevelopment. We have only recently found out about this project after one of our neighbours brought this to our attention. This news came as quite a surprise, as our household has not received any of the previous correspondences from the town regarding this development. I am strongly opposed to the construction of this multi-story complex, and I am particularly annoyed of the **lack in transparency** thus far; the town has not bothered reaching out to involve us in the process nor even to inform us of this project proposal. At five stories, this building is certainly a big deal, and neglecting to tell us about it is a serious omission on the town's part.

There are already multiple large-scale low-income housing projects that are already existing and/or are proposed for this one area of Wellesley. The Wellesley Housing Authority is located at Barton Road and the Needham Housing Authority at Capt. Robert Cook Drive (Although this is out of Wellesley's jurisdiction). The Town of Wellesley is also considering a mixed-use low-income development at the Wellesley Office Park on William Street, and another mixed-income apartment at 2-3 Burke Lane.



(Source: Google Maps,)

After seeing the attached image, it is more than obvious that this area of town has been particularly **overburdened with bearing the brunt of Wellesley's low-income housing.**

The town's concentrating of disadvantaged families into this one area is also potentially a **discriminatory practice**, since this area is on the outskirts of town, and not particularly close to any **libraries, supermarkets or frequent public transport services.** Getting to any of these areas would require walking prohibitively long distances along non pedestrian-friendly stretches of highway. Other good points that neighbours had brought up were that the town has not provided current homeowners with any studies to show the effects it would cause, such as the increase in **traffic** (e.g. the Wellesley Office Park development) or the reduction of **local property values.**

Our family had intended to sign the petition that been circulating, but unfortunately we were unable to do so before it was already submitted. In this letter, we want to establish that we stand in full accordance/support of the petition from the *Concerned Citizens of Wellesley.*

Thank you,
The residents at 16 Harris Avenue.