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The mission of the MV Commission is to *“protect the health, safety and general welfare of island residents and visitors by preserving and conserving for the enjoyment of present and future generations the unique cultural values of Martha’s Vineyard by protecting these values from development and uses which would impair them””*.

Dear Edgartown Planning Commission:

We are writing you to express our concerns surrounding the expansion and commercialization plans by the owner of the Harborview Hotel, and adjoining residential property at 119 North Water Street.

Many of you know our families, Mary Stewart and the late Arthur Allen, and Alison and the late Jim Cannon. Our combined families have been enjoying Martha’s Vineyard as both year-round and seasonal residents for over 140 years. Collectively we have dedicated time throughout our lives to be honorable stewards and protectors of the island’s resources to ensure it continues to be the place of natural and historic beauty for everyone to enjoy for many more generations. Historic preservation and environmental conservation are passions of our families, and ourselves.

We appreciate change, when it is in keeping with the surroundings, better the life for all concerned, does not impact resources, and does not impose risk to the safety of children and boaters. We also appreciate the delicate balance between this and the need to bring in additional tax revenues from increased business brought to the island by visitors. However, we feel it is vital to speak out when a developer, who has no personal ties to the island at large and the Edgartown community in particular, inserts himself and blatantly, not to mention repeatedly, thumbs his nose at permits and zoning laws, and aims to turn a residential property into a full-scale destination resort facility.

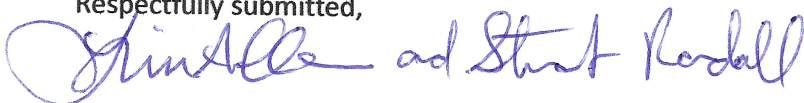
We are alarmed by the projected plans and foresee the long-term impact of such transformation directly affecting the following:

- Traffic
 - This is already at capacity, especially when you consider the daily bottleneck at the intersection of North Water St, Simpson Lane and Dock Street created by the increased development of Chappaquiddick.
 - The police already do not have enough human resources to manage increased traffic in and around the town.
 - The development that aims to bring MORE people down North Water Street will further exacerbate an already troublesome situation that makes quality of life, at times, unenjoyable for surrounding property owners.
 - The offering of horse and carriage rides, typical of Charleston, not Edgartown, will further slow and congest traffic as well as pollute the streets

- The fleet of bicycles already add to traffic woes as users not following traffic signs routinely ride the wrong way down North Water Street, and surrounding streets
- Water Safety
 - The use of the dock for jet ski rental and “tour boats” pose a risk to young boaters and those who enjoy the water and beaches. Jet skis are like mopeds on water. They are rented to people who are not licensed to operate, will often add alcohol to the experience. It will only be a matter of time before someone runs over a child either swimming off lighthouse beach or learning to sail.
 - Let’s not be fooled. The “tour boats” will be coming from commercial cruise ships anchored in the outer harbor shuttling back and forth, day after day, dodging boats and swimmers.
- Local businesses
 - Islanders who own and properly operate in a commercial zone will see income siphoned away. Consider those who already operate bike rentals, car rentals, marina services, hair and nail salons, restaurants, and bars.
- Pollution
 - Of the water - from jet ski fuel and waste disposal by large yachts and commercial cruise ships
 - Of the surrounding streets and properties from horse manure, condoms, beverage cups, take-out containers, etc.
 - Noise – from jet skis, outside bar and restaurant, large events, music after hours, partygoers
- Human Waste Disposal
 - We all can remember the sewage flood of downtown a few years ago and what that did to local businesses that had to close in order to remediate the backup. The sewer system around Edgartown is already strained by the increased development of properties yielding mega houses, the buildout of local hotels, and influx of visitors on a daily basis. Back ups drain into the harbor and pollute the water. Not to mention because the town does not offer convenient restroom facilities tourists relieve themselves (defecate) in the water and dunes
- Affordable Housing for employees
 - This is already a scarce resource for the island community, where will more than likely imported staff live? Will they take away much needed housing from those who choose to make their home on the island?

When considered together, or individually, these issues will most certainly have a long-term impact on the island as a whole, not to mention the community character, cultural values, and historic neighborhood which the developer proposes to transform for his personal gain. If approved, this alteration will destroy the fragile environment and island quality of life for generations to come. For the collective benefit of the island, and Edgartown, your vote of NO to further development at the Harbor View hotel and the adjoining residential property at 119 North Water Street, will continue to uphold the mission of the Commission and the unique nature of this neighborhood in particular.

Respectfully submitted,



Loring Allen & Stuart Randall