

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission

From: Patricia A. Tankard

Date: March 19, 2008

Re: Public Hearing, Bradley Square Project

This letter is being written and forwarded to the Martha's Vineyard Commission, by Patricia A. Tankard, on behalf of the Heirs of (Audria B. Tankard deceased) of 83 Dukes County Avenue, Oak Bluffs, and MA, to notify you of our opposition to the Bradley Square Project.

Review of Acts of the Commonwealth, Chapter 831, sec.15C, DRI Benefits vs. Detriments, indicates that the Commission has the power to authorize the Bradley Square Project, if the Benefits outweigh the Detriments as it relates to the property of others. It specifies that the Commission should thoroughly review all aspects of the request to ensure that it is in the best interest of the community. I believe that the intent of the law is to ensure fair and equitable treatment to all parties while serving the best interests of the community.

I am certain that when this proposal was submitted to the Commission you took great pride in reviewing all of the facts that were presented to you. **(The issue being, those facts that were presented to you.)** My concern is that after almost 50 years of living on Dukes County Avenue and parking on the street, I was told last March, by the Campground Association, that I could no longer park there, as the art galleries needed the space. I advised them that I had no place to park a car on my property, since that was not a prerequisite to purchasing a house 50 years ago. He told me to park on my front lawn. Needless to say, I was appalled by this statement and attitude. After much discussion I was told I could rent a space for an annual fee. As a result of this situation, of which I am not satisfied with the result, I am requesting that you do not proceed with any further development in the area prior to a revisiting of the existing parking situation.

In my opinion, the problem lies in the establishment of an Art District, which consists of multiple small businesses that do not have sufficient on site parking to accommodate their patrons. There are numerous consequences to this act; with the primary one being that the limited amount of on street parking that was once available to residents, no longer exists. Another is that insufficient parking is a deterrent to their businesses, due to the method that people employ when shopping for art, which is browsing. To build anything other than a parking lot in this area would be counter productive, as it would only exacerbate the problem.

Cognizant of the fact that affordable housing is in great demand on the Island, I question whether the building of affordable units targeted for either artists or aspiring artists, is not discriminatory, regardless of where they are being built. Please note that I do not harbor any negative feelings against artists I just believe that we as a community are trying to move away from segregation whether through desire or design, to integration because this attitude benefits us all.

In advance, I would like to thank you very much for any consideration that you might give to my view of the future development of this project.