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Local Address:
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Date: January 4, 2021

To: Members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

I am submitting this letter in opposition to the proposed expansion of the spa at the Harborview Hotel and urge you to object this request.

As a child, I spent every summer coming to the island at our family's summer home at 14 Fuller St. Later, I purchased my own home (adjacent to my family's house) at 50 Cottage St. Throughout my sixty years of summering in Edgartown, first as a child and later raising my own children, I've always thought of Edgartown as a small community where neighbors were respectful of others. I definitely have concerns that this has been changing and the town is being threatened with losing some of its magical charm.

I am particularly concerned about the Harborview Hotel's proposed expansion of their spa. Just over ten years ago the hotel's spa was 850 square feet. The current proposed modification includes a spa which is over 4600 square feet, an increase of over 5 times the current size. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the hotel intends to provide access of this spa to non-guests, essentially creating a destination day spa on the island, which would lead to more traffic in our small community. While I am a businessman myself and understand the concept of being profitable, the concept of creating a destination day spa in our small community violates the zoning parameters for the hotel to preserve the historic and natural character of our neighborhood and should NOT be allowed.

The Harborview Hotel has a history of overstepping its bounds when it comes to zoning regulations and, hence, being a good neighbor. The relocation and

expansion of the pool bar resulted in additional noise to surrounding neighbors. Next, they purchased a private residence (119 North Water St) to use as a commercial property, not abiding by local ordinances. Additionally, the Harborview Hotel has used the private dock at this residence for commercial purposes with jet ski rentals and other waterfront operations. I've also noticed when I take a walk in the evenings that food service is now available on the front porch. All of this expansion leads to more noise and traffic in the area, diminishing the character of this peaceful neighborhood. If the Harborview Hotel cannot be a good neighbor by containing their noise & limiting traffic, the Martha's Vineyard Commission will have to do more to stop this continued encroachment on zoning regulations.

I plan to spend even more time in our Edgartown community over the coming years and would like to see the community maintain its safety, charm and character. I've always tried to be a good neighbor in our community and would like to see the Harborview do the same. Please stop this expansion of the Harborview Hotel before it cannot be reversed.

Sincerely,

Josh Weeks
50 Cottage Street