

Kate and Chuck Brizius  
68 North Water Street  
Edgartown, MA 02539

December 28, 2020

Dear Members of the MV Commission:

My husband Chuck and I have owned our home at 68 North Water Street since 2003 where we have enjoyed many special family moments with our children, relatives and friends throughout the years.

We are writing to make known to the community and the Commission our serious concerns with regard to the expansive modifications proposed by the Harbor View Hotel (HVH). The owners of the HVH are openly disregarding the Permits and Zoning rule laws painstakingly negotiated in 1990 and 1992 in order to transform the hotel into a full-service commercial destination resort with extensive amenities. We feel strongly that the proposed expansion is neither in the spirit of the previous agreement nor in keeping with the scope of a commercial enterprise allowed to operate within a residential district.

To be specific, the proposed expanded public day spa and full-service outdoor restaurant and bar on a 2,600 sq.ft. patio will undoubtedly transform our quiet peaceful neighborhood into a noisy, trafficked, expansive party destination. As such, over the past few years, we have experienced a much higher volume of boisterous and intoxicated pedestrians walking along North Water Street well past midnight coming from the HVH; waking up my young children and causing havoc up and down North Water Street. I can only surmise that the frequency of this kind of pedestrian travel will greatly increase should the proposed expansion be granted.

An equally discouraging development that underscores why we object to the HVH expansion is the drastic changes that we have witnessed to our residential historic neighborhood over the past decade. Developers, contractors and investors seem to have little regard to preserving the character of the village we all share. With sadness, I have seen the rules and regulations that are meant to preserve a peaceful living environment be systematically ignored in the name of further profit and unchecked expansion. Without clear guidelines and a system of checks and balances, who can be held to account? I have significant concerns that the historical oversight the community has entrusted your Commission to uphold is being compromised by aggressive developers like those who control the HVH. The residential boundaries have been pushed to irreversible ruin. Every year, we see architects and builders push thru approvals unchecked for larger and larger "McMansion" on smaller and smaller lots without regard to the character of our village and changing forever our aesthetic, cultural, and natural environment. And now we are fighting an aggressive hotel owner who seems to push the rules at every turn and simply

disregards the very fact that their commercial enterprise sits inside a residential zone. We live on these streets year-round and deserve to have a Commission that fights to preserve the character of our town and holds those who break the rules accountable for their actions.

This change along with news of the HVH expansion, I ask where does it all end? What are we doing to our special island that we all cherish? We fear that we will wake up one day and what we see will be irrevocably destroyed.

I respectfully ask that you reject the proposed expansion by the HVH ownership group. They have not earned our trust. By breaking the Permits and Zoning laws and disregarding the carefully negotiated restrictions to development, they have shown their true intentions. The owners have snuck around behind our back and bent the rules in systematic and small increments to benefit only their personal business interests and with total disregard to the neighbors and community. I implore the Commission to do the right thing. Please consider the future of our beautiful island and put a stop to the HVH expansion. Simple said, enough is enough.

Please feel free to reach out to me at 617.901.5045 with any questions or should someone wish to discuss my concerns in person.

Sincerely yours,

Kate Brizius