

My son and I moved into our home at 201 Franklin St. in the summer of 1992, 11 years ago this month. It was a quiet residential street, safe, not too much traffic.

The Kennedy Biscuit apartments was the only structure on Franklin St. between Brookline St. and Sidney St. All of the present Forest City area was open space for the first few years we were here. Luis learned to ride a bike in that open area; we played softball and soccer. It was rough and ready land, not landscaped but so welcoming to a 5 year old with lots of energy.

The years have brought many changes to this neighborhood. I think the buildings that have gone up are attractive, well-designed etc., and I'm glad for the housing units.

However, there are many aspects of that development that have a negative impact—for me, my neighbors, and the quality of Cambridge life. Traffic is heavy and constant now. Franklin St. is practically a major throughfare. Parking is a NIGHTMARE. Sometimes I have to park 5 blocks away from my home. I dread the impact of 50 more housing units in the neighborhood. Even with its own underground parking, those cars will add to the congestion, pollution, and heavy flow of traffic on Franklin St.

Additionally, I'm worried about structural damage to my building during construction. My house shook day in and out during the construction of the housing units on the other side of Brookline St. My chimney collapsed into the basement, smashing a water heater. The specialists who looked things over said that the ground under the house had shifted, likely from all the pounding, drilling etc that was causing the house to shudder. It was a \$6000.00 project to rebuild the chimney, \$1000.00 deductible that I had to pay. My house needs some foundation work. I am very concerned with the impact of construction on my property, particularly the foundation. The noise pollution will be bad, and lots of rats and mice will invade our homes as they did in the 90's.

Our neighborhood needs more trees, not more people and cars.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Rieman

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Communication #22

A communication was received from Shelley Rieman, regarding construction in the Franklin Street area.

In City Council August 4, 2003

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