

Dear Senator and Representatives,

My name is Michelle Lamarque. My husband, Maurice, and I chose East Walpole 41 years ago to purchase our first home and raise our family. Our three children attended the public schools, we have been involved in the many activities Walpole has to offer...we have been happy here. We were delighted that our two daughters also chose Walpole to buy a home and raise their families.

As long-time residents, we, of course, have been closely following the Omni Development Project in South Walpole. From the beginning it seemed it could not be a serious consideration. There are so many reasons NOT to locate such a large scale housing development (and I understand it is even larger than the original plan) in such an unsuitable location. But, our biggest concern is the safety of the residents of South Walpole and all who travel through the area, whether by car, on foot or by bicycle.

Recently, I stopped by my daughter's house, just off of Winter Street. When returning home, at 5pm, I spent 7 minutes waiting to turn left onto Washington Street from South Street, at the triangle intersection across from the South Walpole Church. There is no break in the traffic traveling south on Washington Street, while people coming from Route 1 fly around the corner onto Washington Street heading north. It is appalling to us that ANYONE would consider adding to this traffic nightmare. It is unacceptable that Omni Development be allowed to endanger the lives of residents, weather current or the residents of their planned development. Clearly, students of Boyden School, will no longer be able to safely walk or bike to school. Adding a significant number of vehicles from the large number of new residents will have a negative and dangerous impact on South Walpole.

I understand Omni owns the property, and I imagine their interest in this large scale development is financial. But, locating this development on property that is unsuitable for many other reasons, while disregarding the safety of the residents and the character of the neighborhood, is unconscionable.

We add our voice to the thousands of others in Walpole and ask you assist in any way possible to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Walpole.

Sincerely,  
Maurice and Michelle Lamarque  
19 Hampton Court  
East Walpole MA 02032

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