

To Whom It May Concern,

I have lived in the Lawrence Estates abutting LMH for 39 of my 41 years. This hospital has been a central part of my existence for the majority of my life. As a neighbor our relationship with the LMH has had a series of ups and downs. Although it has employed many of my neighbors over the years, it has also contributed to the destruction of our quiet single-family neighborhood.

It's hard to remember to think of a single childhood memory of my neighborhood that doesn't somehow involve LMH. As a child I spent many hours on snowy winter days sledding down the wooded path that once stood at the end of my street. During the hot summer months during school vacation the hospital's gift shop was our neighborhood's version of a local shop. As children we would scurry over in groups with a dollar or two hoping to fill pink paper bags with gum and candy. In fact I still remember the cost of my favorite candies and the elderly woman in her pink coat that collected our money. As we grew so did our allowances. We soon discovered the vending machines on the ground floor near the E.R. were filled with soda and chips therefore we learned to navigate the narrow stairwells of this neighborhood hospital. Like their children many neighbors bought their Sunday papers at the information desk in the lobby and purchased cards and unique gifts in the lobby's gift shop. Today we use the lobby for local voting and the gift shop is a paradise to those of us that look for unique gifts.

Although the hospital has always been a neighbor, it hasn't always been a friendly one. The woods at the end of my peaceful street is now a racket nursing home. The green space once filled with trees and animals that connected our neighborhood to the Middlesex Fells and a buffer between the hospital and our neighborhood is now a massive

brick building. A nursing home that has brought nothing but noise and property damage to its abutting neighbors. Although my parents and neighbors were successful in thwarting their initial plan for a multistory parking garage, they were unable to stop the destruction of these woods as the LMH insisted there was a need for geriatric care in our area. Where were the treehuggers when we need them? In fact “our friend” the LMH wanted to make our dead-end street their new entrance without regard to the safety of the many children like myself whom called this street home. Fortunately my neighbor owned a portion of this property preventing this intrusion. “ Our friend” and neighbor was allowed by the City of Medford to use our existing streets sewage lines stating cost effectiveness without increasing the size of pipeline. To date when it rains the sewage pipes on our street back up and many neighbors see flooded basements in addition to the flooding of our private way.

Although the LMH once served as an intricate part in delivering quality health care to our community our proximity to town has aided in its dwindling numbers. These numbers further prove this. The only need I see for an ambulatory unit is the hospitals. They aim to provide in network care to neighboring communities instead of referring those patients to town hospitals further keeping their costs low. Once again proving putting cost and their own need for expansion over the communities best interest.

Sincerely,

Katherine Mungovan

