



SIERRA
CLUB

Massachusetts
Chapter

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Determination of Need Program
99 Chauncy Street
Boston, MA 02111

March 4, 2016

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to the Determination of Need (Application #4-3C47) by the Boston Children's Hospital (BCH). I submit comments on behalf of the MA Sierra Club and our 50,000 members and supporters.

The comments delivered at the February 25th public hearing on both sides of the Prouty Garden issue were very moving. It is clear that BCH's quality of care and the connections amongst staff and patients are exemplary. Likewise, it was heartening to hear that BCH is viewed as a good neighbor.

The values that I wish to convey are expressed so well by our founder, John Muir:

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.

---from *Yosemite*, 1912, page 256.

Let children walk with nature, let them see the beautiful blendings and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity, as taught in woods and meadows, plains and mountains and streams of our blessed star, and they will learn that death is stingless indeed, and as beautiful as life, and that the grave has no victory, for it never fights. All is divine harmony.

--- from *Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf*, 1916, pages 41-42.

We urge you to do whatever you can to preserve the gem known as Prouty Garden. That which is seen as acceptable can become so much more when those in power listen, and think again. If Governor Francis Sargent had not done this, one of your neighbors since the 1970s would have been I-695, a multi-lane Inner Belt within a half-mile of BCH. If those planning the Big Dig had decided that the Charles River crossing was good enough, there would be no soaring, majestic Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge. "Good enough" sometimes comes at too great a cost.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our perspective on this heartfelt matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Ann Buckley
Chair