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CAPE COD COMMISSION

Cape Cod Commission
c/o Lisa Dillon, Commission Clerk
P.O. Box 226
3225 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 02630

11/1/2024

Dear Director Senatori and Members of the Cape Cod Commission:

Our child, Jonathan Lambert, is an adult man with a disability whose story is about far more than the support he needs. He has his own interests, strengths, preferences, and dreams, and he deserves opportunities to share them with others. His experiences have shaped him into a unique individual with much to contribute. As his family, we want others to know him as a whole person—to recognize his abilities, respect his choices, and appreciate the qualities that make him who he is.

Our hope for his future is that he will have a home where he feels safe, valued, and supported while enjoying as much independence as possible. We want him to build meaningful friendships, participate in activities he enjoys, and feel that he truly belongs to a community. Yet finding appropriate housing that balances individual choice with dependable support is a deeply concerning challenge. As we look ahead, we worry about how his needs will be met as our family's circumstances change, and who will be there to provide the care, connection, and consistency he deserves.

For our family, Friends Together's vision of housing alongside a comprehensive adult program represents hope for a more secure and fulfilling future. Just as importantly, we see this project as an investment in the greater Hyannis community—not only in the adults with disabilities who so clearly need these opportunities. Our hope is that residents will be welcomed as neighbors, friends, customers, volunteers, and active participants in local life, with opportunities to contribute their interests and abilities. We envision connections with local businesses, community organizations, and neighbors that foster understanding and mutual respect. Creating these housing opportunities on Cape Cod would mean more than providing a place to live: it would help build a community where belonging is a shared commitment, adults with disabilities have meaningful roles, and families like ours can look toward the future with greater confidence.

The Riverview School — Friends Together Phase 2 Housing DRI approval of the hotel conversion is essential to the Friends Together program commencing. This housing is ***not*** an optional addition; it is fundamental to providing a home for participants and a reliable setting for the staff who will support them. Without approval, families like ours would lose access to a vital opportunity for continuity of care and support.

We respectfully urge the Cape Cod Commission to approve the proposed Phase 2 hotel conversion so Friends Together can move forward and provide the care, stability, and community that our loved ones need and deserve.

Regards,
Lisa and David Lambert
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