

William and Kyle Tollefsen  
703 Main Street  
Hingham, MA 02043  
September 11, 2025

Hingham Historic Districts Commission  
Town of Hingham  
210 Central Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Re: Opposition to Proposed Redevelopment of 709 Main Street

Dear Members of the Historic Districts Commission,

We, William and Kyle Tollefsen, live at 703 Main Street with our two children, immediately abutting the proposed redevelopment at 709 Main Street. Our family have been proud residents of Hingham for 10 years and we are deeply committed to preserving the historic character of the Glad Tidings Historic District.

We recently completed a large-scale renovation of our home at 703 Main Street, working closely with the Historic Districts Commission to ensure that every detail respected and reflected the district's historic integrity. Over the years, we have come to the Commission several times whether it was to seek guidance or to present to the board it was always with the goal of rebuilding and preserving our home in a way that is consistent with the mission of the district. We know firsthand the importance of thoughtful stewardship, and we deeply value the Commission's role in protecting the historic fabric of this community.

Like you, I, Will Tollefsen, also serve the Town of Hingham. As the Medical Director of the Hingham Fire Department, Hingham Police Department and the Plymouth County Technical Rescue Team, I have seen how important it is for a community to honor its traditions and protect the unique elements that make it strong. With that context, we respectfully but firmly oppose the proposed redevelopment at 709 Main Street.

#### **Scale & Massing**

The proposed 8,960 square foot, three-unit condominium complex is out of proportion with the existing and surrounding homes. Its massing and footprint would overwhelm the historic streetscape, permanently altering the rhythm of Main Street and the character of Glad Tidings Plain.

#### **Historic Integrity of the Loring House**

The existing home is a 1748 Colonial, built by a Patriot and long tied to Hingham's history. As a contributing property within the district, it carries both architectural and historic significance. Past modifications respected its scale and preserved its character. The proposed redevelopment, however, would effectively erase its historic narrative by imposing a modern apartment-complex aesthetic.

**Visibility from Public Ways**

Its views are plainly visible from both Main Street and Mill Lane. The proposed barn-like façade, roof decks, and multi-car garages would be highly conspicuous, detracting from the district's 18th–19th century architectural continuity. In addition, the suggested use of composite siding and black windows is not historically appropriate compared to traditional cedar clapboard and wood windows.

**Precedent for the District**

Approval of this project would establish a troubling precedent for large-scale redevelopment in one of Hingham's most visible and iconic historic districts. Future developers would cite it as justification for similarly oversized projects, undermining decades of preservation efforts.

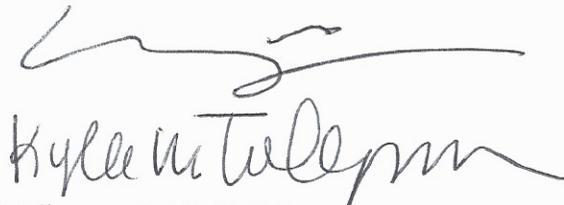
**Neighborhood Compatibility**

Eleanor Roosevelt once described Main Street as "the most beautiful street in America." This proposal, with its urban-style condominium design, is incompatible with the historic rhythm, scale, and character of the Glad Tidings Historic District.

For all of these reasons, we urge the Commission to deny the proposed redevelopment of 709 Main Street. Preserving the historic integrity of our community must remain paramount, and this project, as designed, is wholly inconsistent with that mission.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William and Kylie Tollefsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William and Kylie Tollefsen  
703 Main Street  
Hingham, MA 02043