

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Norwalk needs more library parking, not more apartments

In Wednesday's Hour, I read with great interest the parking problem associated with the Norwalk Public Library. Consequently, I have some concerns with our Zoning Commission.

First and foremost, with the glut of apartments already in this city how could the Zoning Commission approve a five-story 69-unit apartment building knowing that the library is in such dire need of parking? To think that this city needs more apartments along with 51 on-site and 31 off-site parking spaces in lieu of library parking is irresponsible and an insult to our city. In addition, the traffic on Mott Avenue is already congested.

Peter Nolin, the attorney representing the builder 587 CT AVE LLC, acknowledges that parking is a problem for the library and that the city should have purchased the property years ago but never got their act together. I concur with Mr. Nolin's assessment. However, we can not undo what transpired for 30 years i.e. not purchasing the property.

Also, it's unconscionable to think that the Zoning Commission was unaware of the library's ongoing parking dilemma prior to their approval. In lieu of handing out

building permits at times on a whim, isn't there a system in place for the Zoning Commission to determine if there could be better use for certain properties especially when it benefits the city?

Alex Knopp, president of the Library System Board of Trustees and chairman of the Library Foundation, states in the article "Norwalk taxpayers are supporting the library operations, but are unable to use the facilities because there is no parking." But he wants "to provide sufficient parking so the public gets the full benefit of the library." I commend Mr. Knopp's stance on this issue.

In March, Mr. Knopp plans to be in the state Superior Court in Stamford when the appeal is heard. I, along with other concerned Norwalk taxpayers, need to support Mr. Knopp's endeavor. I request that Mr. Knopp apprise us concerned citizens of anything we can do to support his commendable efforts.

**Joe Abruscato
Norwalk**