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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

April 16, 2004

David Merrill
TFH Architects
100 Commercial St.
Portland, Maine 04101

RE: Parkside Affordable Housing/Neighborhood Center (048 B011)

Dear Dave,

Thanks for your cooperative approach to the give and take that often goes along with the plan review process. I'd like to memorialize a couple of points that we discussed:

- 1) Fire Dampers for Building "A"; because we are increasing the fire suppression to a full NFPA 13 system we can eliminate fire dampers for HVAC ducts that penetrate rated wall assemblies pursuant to Section 714.1.5.1.1.3. To allow this, the Shaft rating shown on the plan will be downgraded to a 1-hour rating based on your assertion that all shafts in this project connect less than four stories pursuant to Section 710.3. All Duct penetrations of rated floor separation assemblies shall be protected with appropriate fire dampers and will the penetration at the "top" of the shaft.
- 2) Fire Dampers for Building "B"; because we are using an NFPA 13R suppression system, all duct penetrations of rated floor/ceiling, wall and shafts must have fire dampers. This includes double dampers where vent penetrate the ceiling and then the shaft. Both require dampers as well as the top and bottom of the shaft if there are penetrations.

With regard to the Waiver requested for the installation of unprotected openings in the East wall of Building "B", the applicant proposes that the City measure the fire separation distance to a line that is one half the distance from the subject structure to the required R6 setback point on the abutting property, much like the code requires for development of multiple buildings on the same lot. An imaginary line is drawn half the distance between the two buildings. This distance is 5 feet 8 inches. The applicant proposes to increase the fire separation assembly rating of the exterior wall to 1 hour and to limit the unprotected openings to 12.48%. Building "B" will be protected with an NFPA 13R Fire Suppression System. Based on the above

increase in fire rating and the decrease in percentage of unprotected openings. The actual distance to the abutting structure is 22 feet. Based on this, this office grants the waiver of the requirements of Section 705.3 and 705.3.2 pursuant to Section 121 of the City Building Code as amended.

Yours truly,

Mike Nugent
Manager of Inspection Services