

April 27, 2024

City of Stamford  
Planning Board  
Stamford, CT

*I am writing to express my opinion on the neighboring proposed subdivision at 1295 Shippan Avenue, Stamford, CT.*

*I am a lifetime resident of Stamford and my multi-generational home has been in my family since 1976. Shippan is a beautiful, established neighborhood that is steeped in history and is a lovely place to live. Most people live in primarily older built homes that are well cared for. It is in a prime location in terms of being a commutable suburb near major interstates and economic developments on a greater scale.*

*I believe that subdividing is not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. It would also drastically alter the aesthetic of the area, replacing the existing greenery and open space with another house. Subdividing will have an impact on how the neighborhood feels and looks.*

*I am deeply concerned about the impact this may have on properties in the surrounding area. The potential influx of future subdivisions could result in an overwhelming increase of an already overburdened infrastructure, leading to increased traffic congestion, noise pollution, and a strain on our public services. Additionally, projects like this might destroy natural habitats and put wildlife at risk. It is disconcerting to think that developers can buy property in an established neighborhood and begin to carve it up. It is even more disconcerting to think that the Zoning Board members might approve these subdivisions no matter how they might effect an existing neighborhood.*

*With the pandemic came lots of changes to the workforce that will likely continue as we move forward in a more digital world. If anything, we have become aware of the need for designated home office space, quality outdoor and public space, space for growing families and elderly care. I am imagining what the future holds as more and more jobs increase work from home positions. Sitting in your home office that looks directly into your neighbor's home five feet away does not exactly sound ideal.*

*In a city that is already crowded with apartment buildings being built on almost every corner, overwhelming traffic, cars parked on both sides of residential streets and roads in desperate need of repairs, do we really need to divide a beautiful piece of property to construct another house. Schools are overcrowded, the hospital emergency room has a 5-6 hour wait and that's on a good day. Many doctor offices can't schedule appointments for months and some won't accept any new patients. The city is busting at its seams.*

*It is already difficult for current residents, especially seniors who have lived here their whole life to stay in their private homes because of rising property taxes and now they worry about a neighboring property being overdeveloped.*

*Just because you can subdivide, doesn't necessarily mean you should. This is a beautiful historic home and the property that it sits on should remain as is.*

*I strongly urge you to consider the impact this project will have on the Shippan neighborhood before approving the proposed property subdivision. I am not opposing a renovation project of the existing current house and property, but I am opposing a subdivision in order to build another house.*

*Thank you for your attention to this matter.*

*Sincerely,*

*Lisa Polestra  
1273 Shippan Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06902*