



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OF INJUNCTION AGAINST NORTH EAST FOODS

PROPOSED BURGER KING OPERATION AT 892 RIVER ST., HYDE PARK, MA (7/2/2020).

Dear Community,

On behalf of the Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc., as a community leader, civil engineer and most importantly a parent of two children who attend the Boston Preparatory Charter School located at 885 River St., Hyde Park, MA., we write to fully oppose the commencement of business at the above titled Burger King restaurant.

On **June 12th, 2020**, in the immediate aftermath of the George Floyd murder, considering the national reckoning in regards to the systemic racism and the **BLACKLIVESMATTER** movement, Mayor Marty Walsh declared racism a public health crisis in Boston, MA. We unfortunately present to you today exhibit A, yet another 'knee to the neck' to the communities of color. The placement of an unhealthy fast food restaurant directly in competition with and across the street from a school with 97% minority attendance which is offering in some cases the only healthy food options these children have is simply and obviously immoral on a multitude of levels. This is a public health crisis indeed.

Defeating systemic racism requires real economic sacrifice and a steadfast embrace of a more 'compassionate capitalism' not just symbolic gestures of removing confederate flags, statues and 'aunt jemima'. As loving parents, placement of this unhealthy food option two & a half minute walk away is an insult to our dignity and endangers the lives of all we are working for, our children.

Our **SCHOOL PROXIMITY TO FAST FOOD (BURGER) ANALYSIS** clearly shows a pattern of systemic predatory restaurant placement by ALL fast food establishments built into the very infrastructure of Boston, MA. Posing a permanent & physical threat to the health and economics in communities of color that simply do not exist in white neighborhoods. Disparities between white & black communities in regards to Fast Food proximity to school show in some cases that low income multicultural communities have 2-3 times more saturation of fast food restaurants than their white counterparts. This infrastructural fact along with police brutality, health, education and financial systemic forms of racism serve to deliver a 'death by a thousand cuts' to communities of color that has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19.

At this juncture, we wish to reveal that the inspiration behind authoring the aforementioned Fast Food analysis, Liam Curran of the City of Boston licensing board meeting (5-14-20) cited 'saturation' as his reason to vote for commencement of the Burger King operation. He made this tragic decision despite his stated personal discomfort with fast food and his recognition of the detrimental effects to the children of Boston Prep. We would like to have a conversation with Mr. Curran to ascertain what data he used in arriving at his unfortunate decision that will directly harm our community. Black Childrens Lives matter more than more profit and saturation, Mr. Curran.

In light of all the above, we propose a land use change in accordance with community cultural rejuvenation goals especially in regards to enhancing the educational experience of the children who already have a whole system of racism to deal with for the rest of their lives. We are grateful for the level of video transparency since the pandemic struck, it serves to expose how these systemic poisonous meetings are detrimental to our communities of color.

Kindly find attached our **SCHOOL PROXIMITY TO FAST FOOD (BURGER) ANALYSIS**, said analysis summary & list of reasons why we oppose commencement of operations for said Burger King restaurant.

We trust you find the above in order, however if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us immediately.
Sincerely,

Marlon Solomon - 7/2/2020

Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc. - Founder & Project Engineer.



Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc

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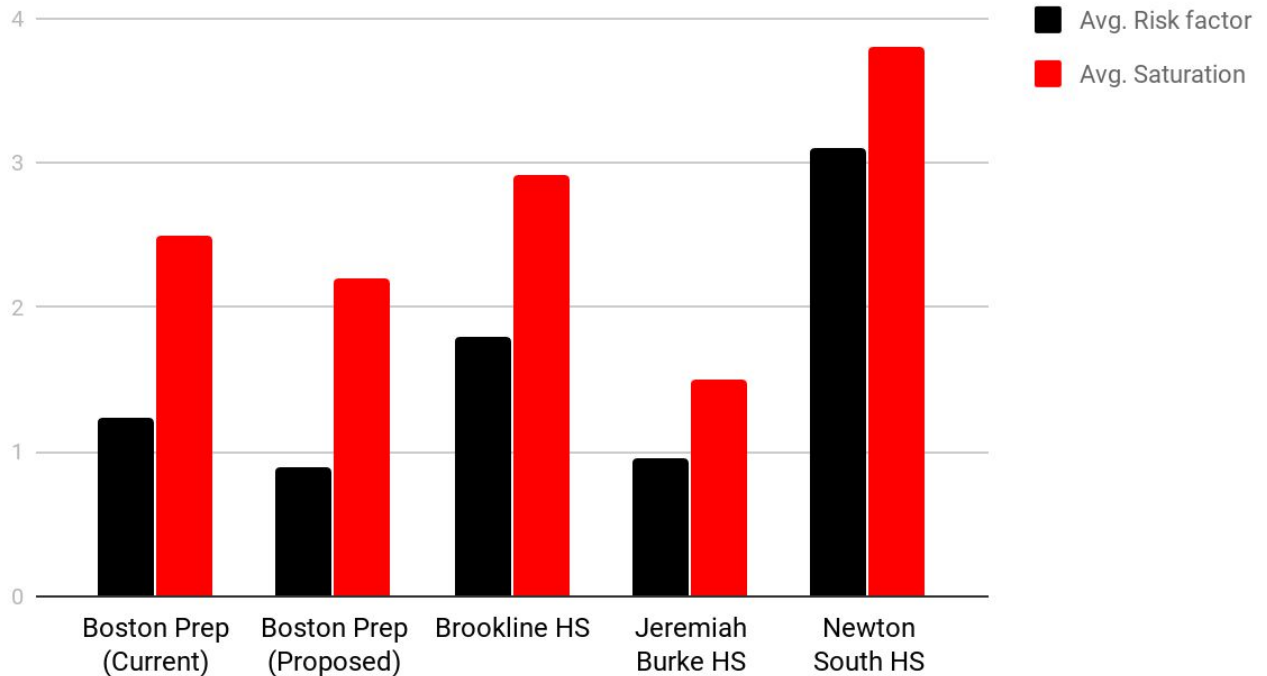
PROPOSED BURGER KING OPERATION AT 892 RIVER ST., HYDE PARK, MA (7/2/2020).

1. **Systemic racism concerns:** Business, construction and land use practices clearly exacerbating community of color health crisis exposed by COVID-19.
 - a. 2 Burger Kings in less than 1 mile from Boston Prep.
 - b. 1 Burger King, 1 McDonalds & 1 Wendys in avg .9 miles from Boston Prep.
 - c. 9 restaurants (3 BK's, 3 Mcd's & 3 Wendys) in avg 2.2 miles from Boston Prep.
 - d. 9 restaurants (3 BK's, 3 Mcd's & 3 Wendys) in avg. 1.5 miles from Jeremiah E. Burke.
2. **Environmental concerns:** HVAC air pollution QA/QC exercises required to ascertain air filters and fresh air ducts are designed to meet 24/7/365 6am - 12 midnight for decades long duration of operation given school existed prior to Burger King.
3. **Traffic concerns:** This brand new school is not fully occupied, pick up and drop off times in combination with drive thru capabilities of said Burger King will be detrimental to the community.
4. **Economic concerns:** The median income of communities on color in Boston is \$8. The price of a whopper meal is more expensive than \$8. Local restaurant business can not compete with dollar menus from multiple multi-billion dollar corporations. Draining our limited community resources.
5. **Boston Prep children concerns:**
 - a. Local hangout. Economic drain.
 - b. In competition with healthy food choices. After school programs.
 - c. Burger King is closer than their sports field.
6. **Psychological & cultural concerns:** Boston is sending a clear message that fast food is good for children. The children will be effectively 'brainwashed' from childhood to adulthood via easy access, advertising, marketing and cheap price points.
7. **Crime and safety concerns:**
 - a. **June 28th, 2020 (4 days ago):** TEWKSBURY, MASS. (WHDH) - A man is facing an armed assault charge after police say he flashed a gun at another motorist during an argument in Tewksbury on Friday. Officers responding to a report of a threat made at a **Burger King** on Main Street at **4:45 p.m.** arrested Michael Cetrone, 49, of Billerica on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, officials said.
 - b. **June 12th, 2020:** Rashard Brooks was shot in a **Wendy's** parking lot in Atlanta, GA.
 - c. **July 5th, 2019:** METHUEN, MASS. (WHDH) - State police have arrested a suspect in connection with a shooting at a **McDonald's** in Methuen that sent one person to the hospital Friday.
 - d. **January 11th, 2018:** a shooting happened around **2:20 p.m.** in Dorchester, police said, in the parking lot of a **Burger King** at the intersection of Columbia Road and Washington Street. One victim's injuries were not considered life threatening. The other victim was taken to a hospital in critical condition and later died, authorities confirmed. Aerial footage showed at least a half dozen police vehicles and police tape cordoning off the Burger King parking lot. **(0.9 miles from Jeremiah E. Burke).**
 - e. **April 20th, 2017:** Boston police announced an arrest Thursday in connection with a shooting death in the parking lot of a **McDonald's** in the city's Dorchester neighborhood last week. Deonarine Ganga, 29, was already in police custody on previous charges when he was charged with murder, according to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Ganga is accused of fatally shooting 21-year-old Joey DeBarros outside of the McDonald's on Gallivan Boulevard.
8. **Liam Curran of the City of Boston Licensing Board** stated 'saturation' as his reason for voting 'YES' to the Burger King. This is clearly disproven by our school proximity fast food analysis.

School Proximity to Fast Food (Burger) Analysis Summary



Average Distance between Schools to Fast Food Restaurants.



School	Avg. Risk Factor (1 BK, 1 Mcd & 1 Wendy's) (3 Restaurants) In miles	Avg. Saturation (3 BK's, 3 Mcd's & 3 Wendy's) (9 Restaurants) In miles
Boston Prep (Current)	1.23	2.5
Boston Prep (Proposed)	0.9	2.2
Brookline HS	1.8	2.9
Jeremiah E. Burke	0.96	1.5
Newton South HS	3.1	3.8

Source: Google maps [Accessed: 6/9/20]