

Response to the Renewer of Boston editorial in the December 15, 2004 Globe:

Charlesview tenants urge extension of BRA authority

As the President of the Charlesview Residents Organization (tenants in 213 low and moderate income units at the corner of Western Avenue and Harvard Street known as "Barry's Corner"), I totally agree with the Boston Globe's assessment of the Boston Redevelopment Authority's need to maintain the urban renewal projects in the City of Boston for three major reasons. First, the BRA makes sure that the real people affected are at the table when decisions are being made. Second, the urban renewal plans themselves give the city and community people the power to ensure that private developers and others live up to their promises. Third, the BRA has been responsible for ensuring that well over a thousand affordable apartments were protected from alternative use.

I have now been involved with the North Allston Planning Process for over two years and seen the BRA has maintain a role as a professional "referee" which is needed when the all parties need to remember there are **real people whose lives are being affected here.**

We do not need history repeated with another Barry's Corner incident where people were thrown out of their homes 35 years ago, they had no VOICE. The BRA makes sure that our VOICE is heard.

Debby Giovanditto
Allston Resident & President of Charlesview Residents Organization