

Councilor Amy Mah Sangiolo  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

CC: David Olson, Newton City Clerk

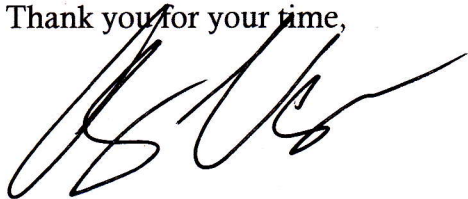
Dear Councilor Mah Sangiolo:

My name is Anthony Vega and I am the owner of Boccabella Café & Bistro on Lexington Street here in Newton. I am writing to you to in support of the Washington Place redevelopment of the Orr Block on Washington and Walnut streets in Newtonville. Moving forward with this development would add to Newton's economy and benefit businesses across the city.

The project will also create a sorely missing "downtown" area connecting North and South Newton with new affordable and middle income-housing, retail stores, and community space. Washington Place will attract more people to Newton for rental and shopping needs and also help retain current residents who might be struggling to pay rent. Rental prices are rapidly increasing in the Boston area and people are looking for more affordable housing, which this development will help provide. Washington Place will also provide a significant upgrade to the existing traffic signalization and pedestrian crossings at the Washington Street and Walnut Street intersection. These intersections need to be improved for the long-term growth of that community, even without a new development.

This development would greatly benefit area business owners like myself and the services we provide for the community. Keeping customers in Newton naturally brings more opportunities to grow business success in the area and grow our economy. I hope that you too will wholeheartedly support the Washington Place development based on the substantial benefits it would bring to our community.

Thank you for your time,



Anthony Vega  
Owner  
Boccabella Café & Bistro  
442 Lexington Street  
Newton, MA