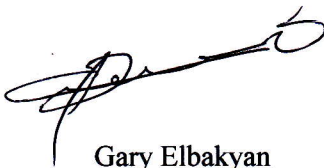


Emily Norton
Ward 2 Councilor
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Gary Elbakyan
Owner
LUX Shoe Repair
811 Washington St
Newton, MA 02460

I wish to express my support for Washington Place, the new redevelopment being sited at the old Orr-Block on the corners of Washington in Walnut in Newtonville. I especially like the project because it will bring some economic development to an area that is currently being underused. It will also help people who are leaving Newton due to the increasingly expensive cost of housing in the area. More projects should offer middle income and affordable housing so that we can keep these families living in Newton and spending their money in Newton as well. As a proud business owner in Newtonville situated very close to the Orr-Block, I see this project as a positive change for my business and others businesses across the city. Please approve any and all permitting needed to get this project done. Thanks.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Elbakyan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Elbakyan