

RECEIVED
Newton City Clerk

**The Newton City Council
Newton City Hall
Room 105
1000 Commonwealth Ave**

2016 NOV 22 AM 8:48

David A. Olson, CMC
Newton, MA 02459

RE: "Washington Place"

Councilor Amy Mah Sangiolo:

Newton residents are suffering from excessively costly rents. Wages are stagnant while home and rental costs are soaring. This is causing for many an increased hardship on their budget. We must look for opportunities to bring housing relief to struggling families. Working, middle class, families are an important component of this city and our economy. If this trend of gentrification continues within the greater Boston area we will see a huge economic impact on the region. Working class families are the bedrock of our economy. They are the ones working in the retail stores, supermarkets, trash removal etc. If we do not make room for them, we will be left with a job vacuum, and a bunch of job openings that nobody wants to fill. We need to take action to keep working families in Newton to prevent this.

Washington Place will provide a larger than usual ratio of affordable housing units and hopefully set a positive precedent for future developments in the city. These rental units will be offered to Newton residents before anyone else too. This is an opportunity to bring relief and hope to working families on the verge losing their homes, or those choosing to move in order to maintain some kind of affordable standard of living where budgets aren't crushed by rent. Newton is in an affordable housing crisis, developments like Washington Place should be encouraged and incentivised.

Thank You,

