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Newton City Clerk

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David A. Olson, CMC
Newton, MA 02459

Benjamin T. Kiley
97 Pennsylvania Avenue
Newton, MA 02464

Councilor John Rice
Clerk David Olson
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Washington Place in Newtonville

Mr. Rice,

As you are aware, the Washington Place project is going to redevelop the Orr Block in Newtonville. I urge you to support the redevelopment. Washington Place is going to offer affordable to middle income housing here in Newtonville and we need as much of that as possible.

Good affordable housing options are something Newton used to have, but that is quickly becoming a thing of the past. My understanding is that out of the 171 rental apartments offered by Washington Place, 25% of those units will be at affordable rates. This is a significant number of affordable units that is relatively unheard of in projects like this. This will be in-sync with the existing affordability in Newtonville and offer a chance to add more affordable units to Newton at-large. But this is not just a single purposed building: Washington Place offers real economic redevelopment opportunities for Newtonville as well.

The first floor will be retail shops, restaurants, and other small businesses that will attract some much needed commerce to the area. This is how we grow our city, with new economic opportunities and more affordable housing. This will strengthen our city's foundation and I believe the City Council should quickly approve Washington Place

Best wishes,

David Olson