

Dear Councilor Blazar:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today because I want to relay my support for the Washington Place project in Newtonville. Since 2008 our economy has steadily been recovering from the housing market crash. As of right now, housing prices have completely recovered and then some. Newton is no exception to this big, costly housing surge.

Now we are beginning to see another crisis emerging related to housing. The only difference is that housing costs have become too high rather than too low. This cost increase is beginning to affect real middle class people across Newton in very concerning ways. People are being driven out of their homes. This is because wages have not kept up with the rising cost of living, and especially housing. Affordable housing options are needed.

The Washington Place project is a large commercial and residential development that will replace the Orr Block on the corner of Walnut and Washington St in Newtonville and I strongly support it because it will supply 171 new rental units, of which 25% will be dedicated to house low to middle income tenants. I believe Washington Place is the exact type of project we need to help grow diversity in Newton. The new businesses that will accompany this development are an added benefit.

I do not have any qualms with the height of Washington Place. Washington Street is 80 feet wide and the MA Turnpike is the next closest roadway. 4 and 5 stories make sense for this area and I urge you not to let that aspect stop the Council from approving this outstanding project. Thank you.

Best wishes,

Dee Mallon
(Deirdre)
10 Oakmont Rd

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Newton City Clerk
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DAVID A. O'CONNOR
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