

Councilor Norton and Clerk Olson
Newton City Council
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

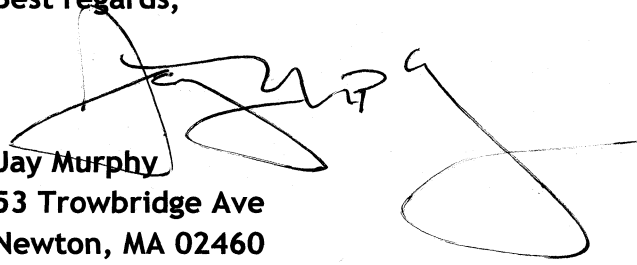
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Newton City Clerk
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DAVID A. OLSON, CLERK
NEWTON, MA 02459

Dear Councilor Emily Norton,

Newtonville needs to be revitalized. It is as simple as that. The area know as the Orr block is a complete eyesore which affects the desirability of Newtonville as a location for tenants and businesses. The Washington Place development will directly address this issue by replacing the run-down Orr Block with a new gorgeous commercial shopping center with a 10,000 ft courtyard that will feature public art and greenspace. It will also provide 171 residential rental units to Newton, which we need. A substantial number of these units will be affordable and middle income housing--which we really, really need!

This development will go far in expanding Newton's tax base while improving commerce in the area. The result will no doubt be in the economic interests of Newtonville and the city as a whole. The alternative is that we continue to under-utilize the run down property which stands there today which will no doubt continue to fall into ever-increasing disrepair. Or, we can use some good judgement and foresight and support this development. I think we should all prefer the latter.

Best regards,


Jay Murphy
53 Trowbridge Ave
Newton, MA 02460