

Councilor Amy Mah Sangiolo  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton Centre, MA

Steven Silverman  
393 Fuller Street  
Newton, MA

RE: Comments on "Washington Place"

RECEIVED  
NEWTON CITY HALL  
2016 OCT 28 PM 4:32  
DAVID A. OLSON, CMC  
NEWTON, MA 02459

Dear Councilor Mah Sangiolo,

My name is Steven Silverman and I am a Newton resident who strongly supports the new "Washington Place" shopping and residential buildings being sited in Newtonville. This area, known today as the Orr Block, has long been economically underutilized. Most people in town only experience this part of Newtonville only through driving by in their car. I spend a lot of time in Newtonville and our kids went to Newton North. I know firsthand how run-down this area really is. I believe if there is a local developer willing to invest extra money to have great curb appeal, it should be strongly supported by the Council and people all over Newton. The current buildings standing there today are very old and not an appealing place for new business opportunities – or even resident or visitors for that matter.

Introducing new commercial and residential opportunities to this area via the new "Washington Place" project will clearly be a very significant upgrade on how this property is being used today. With 40,000 square feet of new commercial space, 171 new apartments (including low and middle income housing for our less affluent neighbors), and over 10,000 square feet of community-oriented space open to the public, this project will improve the village experience in Newtonville on just about every measure.

Sincerely,



Steven Silverman