



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Economic Development Commission

January 26, 2015

City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Aldermen,

On behalf of the Newton Economic Development Commission, I wish to express strong support for the proposal to establish a MassChallenge satellite facility at the former Newton Centre Library at 1294 Centre Street. We feel that MassChallenge is an excellent addition to Newton's innovation economy, and moreover will help to bring additional activity into Newton Centre, supporting strong retail sustainability.

It is important to note that welcoming MassChallenge should not be viewed in isolation, but rather as one component in a series of steps needed to ensure the long-term success of the village of Newton Centre and of the City of Newton as a whole. In order to make the most of the opportunity presented by MassChallenge – and to ensure its success at this location - the City of Newton should also ensure that a full strategy for supporting the facility is put in place, including (but not limited to) parking, a means for attracting supporting businesses, and providing spaces in Newton for "graduates" of the facility.

Further, we urge that the MassChallenge opportunity be viewed as another reminder that the City of Newton requires a true economic development strategy that lays out the City's vision, a series of achievable goals, the tools to achieve these goals, and a series of metrics to evaluate progress. The current opportunity, the City's certification as an RTC under the EDIP program, and our engagement in the N² initiative all require a strong, cohesive strategy in order to fully achieve their potential.

We look forward to working with both of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to welcome MassChallenge to the city of Newton. We strongly support the MassChallenge proposal, and look forward to working through the specifics.

Sincerely,

Christopher Steele, Chairman, Newton Economic Development Commission

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

James Freas
Interim Director
Planning & Development

Nancy Hyde
Economic Development
Director

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<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/econdev/commission.asp>