

Oct. 28, 2002

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask that you support the two projects proposed by Can Do to help provide affordable housing in Newton.

I write as a former Newton resident who just could not afford to hold onto my rented apartment of 10 years as the rent increased by \$300 a month last year alone.

My daughter and I had to move out of Newton last April and increased housing cost was the only reason.

I think that when long term residents are forced to relocate because they have no housing options, and when people who work in and for the city can not live there, the community is weakened.

Can Do has a fine track record of completing worth-while projects .

For those of us who rent, the cost of housing in Newton is a crisis.

Please help the hardworking people of Newton by approving these projects.

Sincerely,

Mary I. Timm Gomes  
203 Hammond St.,  
Waltham

Community Preservation Planner  
Newton Planning and Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

October 23, 2002

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is written to you and the Community Preservation Committee to indicate support for the two housing proposals CAN-DO is presenting to the Committee.

I was an active participant in the campaign for passage of the Community Preservation Act, and I am a neighbor of the Christina Street project. It is my hope that community housing will be a major benefactor of the Community Preservation funding made available in Newton. As you review the numerous applications to fund various projects, I urge you to take into consideration how the housing affordability crisis has worsened since the fall of 2001 when the Act was passed.

Sale prices for homes in Newton continue to rise despite the lagging economy. Rental prices for housing have softened somewhat but are still higher than many families can afford. CAN-DO has applied for funding for both a homeownership project and a rental project. Josephine McNeil has made me aware of the project plans which are as follows

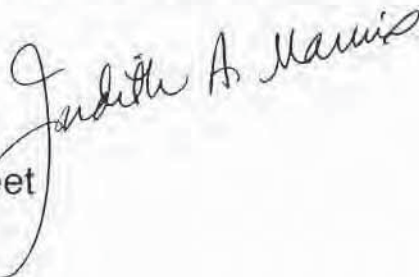
Homeownership Project - \$300,000 in funding to reduce the cost of the three market rate units at its Christina Street project would provide homeownership opportunities for three city employees who meet the income eligibility requirements under the Act. The desire to create community housing opportunities for city employees was often cited as a rationale for the passage of the Act during the campaign.

Rental Project - \$200,000 to assist in the purchase of a two-family house in West Newton. Each of the three-bedroom units will be rented to families who have Section 8 certificates.

We believe these two projects represent a good beginning for utilization of the funds to address Newton's community housing needs. Therefore, we strongly urge the Committee to approve CAN-DO's application to fund these two projects. Thank you in advance for any support that you can give these two very worthwhile plans. CAN-DO has proven itself a reliable provider of quality communityhousing.

Sincerely,

Judith Mannix, M.D.  
430 Winchester Street  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-965-2554  
jkoot@rcn.com



William & Linda McLaughlin  
20 Woodlawn Drive  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

October 29, 2002

Community Preservation Planner  
Newton Planning and Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

To Whom it May Concern:

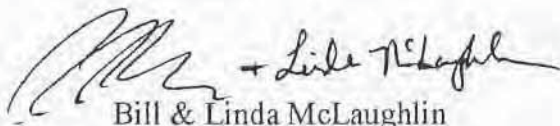
As Newton residents, we believe community preservation funding should be focused upon affordable housing to the greatest extent possible. A variety of affordable housing opportunities for Newton residents will serve to strengthen our community.

CAN-DO has applied for funding for both a homeownership project and a rental project, which are as follows:

1. Homeownership Project - **\$300,000** in funding to reduce the cost of the three market rate apartments at its Christina Street project would provide homeownership opportunities for three city employees who meet the income eligibility requirements under the Act. The desire to create community housing opportunities for city employees was often cited as a rationale for the passage of the Act during the campaign.
2. Rental Project - **\$200,000** to assist in the purchase of a two-family home in West Newton. Each of the three-bedroom apartments will be rented to families who have Section 8 certificates.

We believe the above referenced housing opportunities represent a good beginning for utilization of the funds to address Newton's community housing needs. Therefore, we strongly urge the Committee to approve CAN-DO's application to fund these two projects.

Sincerely,

  
Bill & Linda McLaughlin

October 30, 2002

15 Ricker Road  
Newton, MA 02458

Community Preservation Planner  
Newton Planning and Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Sir or Madam:

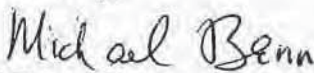
I am writing to ask you to review and support the CAN DO housing proposals.

My family and I have resided in Newton for 25 years. My kids attended Newton schools. We are members of the Eliot Church community. I serve on the CAN DO board of directors. I mention this, because I would like you to know that I have a deep interest in the Newton community life. I am sure that I do not have to convince you that a diverse community is a more vibrant place to live than one that is homogeneous.

Given the economics of the housing market today, a diverse housing stock in Newton will not "just happen". The city has to work to encourage it when opportunity arises. Such an opportunity is presented to you today through the CRA funds.

Please act now. Support affordable housing in Newton. Approve the CAN DO housing proposals.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Benn

October 30, 2002

Community Preservation Planner  
Newton Planning and Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

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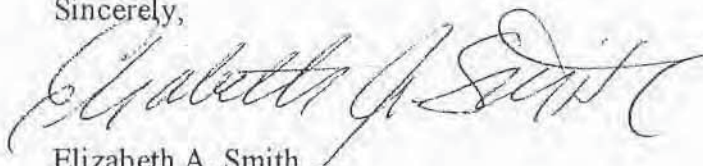
Please accept this letter as an indication of AvalonBay Communities' support for the two housing proposals that the Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization (CAN-DO) is presenting to the Community Preservation Committee ("Committee"). It is our hope that community housing will be a major benefactor of the Community Preservation funding made available in the City of Newton. As you review the numerous applications to fund various projects, we urge you to take into consideration how the housing affordability crisis has worsened since the fall of 2001 when the Community Preservation Act was passed.

Sales prices for homes in Newton continue to rise despite the lagging economy. Rental prices for housing have softened but are still higher than many families can afford. CAN-DO has applied for funding for both a homeownership project and a rental project, which are as follows:

1. Homeownership Project - **\$300,000** to reduce the cost of the three market rate condominiums at its Christina Street project. Three city employees, who meet the income eligibility requirements under the Act, will have the opportunity to purchase these homes. The Christina Street homeownership project creates housing opportunities for City of Newton employees within the community which they serve. The Community Preservation Act was designed to fund this type of community housing opportunity.
2. Rental Project - **\$200,000** to assist in the purchase of a two-family home in West Newton. Each of the three-bedroom apartments will be rented to families who have Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly Section 8 Certificates).

AvalonBay believes these two projects represent a sound investment in addressing Newton's community housing needs. Therefore, we strongly urge the Committee to approve CAN-DO's application to fund these two community housing projects.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Smith  
Development Manager

Elisabeth Harper  
19 Fairmont Ave, Newton, MA 02458

Community Preservation Planner  
Newton Planning and Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

October 30, 2002

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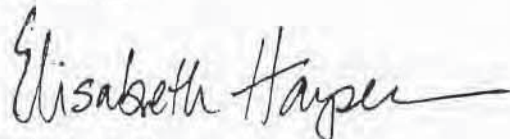
This letter is written to you and the committee to indicate support of the two housing proposals CAN-DO is presenting to the committee. I was an active participant in the campaign for passage of the Community Preservation Act. It is my hope that community housing will be a major benefactor. As you review the numerous projects, we urge you to take into consideration how the affordability crisis has worsened since the fall of 2001 when the act was passed.

Sale prices continue to rise despite the lagging economy. Rental prices have softened somewhat but are still higher than many families can afford. CAN-DO has applied for funding for both a homeownership project and a rental project.

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2. Rental Project - \$200,000 to assist in the purchase of a two-family house in West Newton. Each of the three-bedroom units will be rented to families who have Section 8 certificates.

We believe these two projects represent a good beginning for utilization of the funds to address Newton's community housing needs. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth Harper

Community Preservation Planner  
Newton Planning and Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

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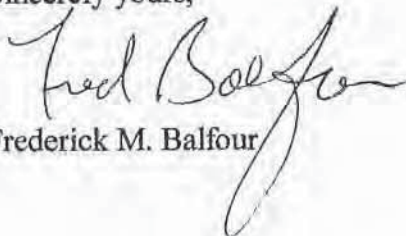
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Sincerely yours,



Frederick M. Balfour

Community Preservation Planner  
Newton Planning and Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

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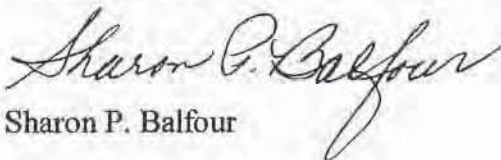
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Sincerely yours,



Sharon P. Balfour