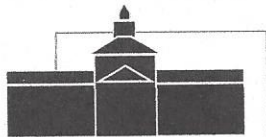


Newton Council on Aging



The Senior Center

Community Preservation Program Manager,
City of Newton Planning & Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

I am writing on the behalf of the Newton Council on Aging and Advisory Board (COA). The COA is a group of interested volunteers appointed, by the Mayor, to serve the needs and improve the quality of life for all Newton seniors focusing on outreach, advocacy, education, and legislation. The COA is part of the Department of Senior Services and shares the mission, vision, and values of the department.

The mission of the Department of Senior Services is to optimize quality of life for older adults and those who support them through welcoming, respectful and meaningful opportunities that engage and value older people, and empower them to remain independent and to be important assets in our community.

Our vision is to provide sustained leadership that helps Newton be a livable and age friendly community for all who choose to age here.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Coleman House Senior Housing Preservation project proposed by 2Life Communities. The Newton Council on Aging and Advisory Board (COA) supports this renovation project and believe it is critical to ensure the preservation of high-quality affordable housing for future generations. The project will address the documented* desire of older residents to remain in their homes and as equally important to remain in the village they are currently living in.

The COA is aware that 2Life is a mission-driven non-profit organization, dedicated to high-quality senior living environments with a laser sharp focus on affordability and a strong track record in Newton and beyond.

Newton Council on Aging/Senior Center | 345 Walnut Street | Newton, MA 02460

Tel: 617-796-1660 | Fax: 617-969-9560

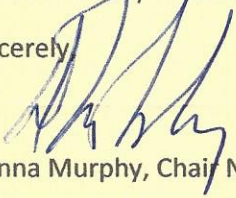
E-mail: info@newtonseniors.org | Web Site: www.newtonseniors.org



Since the renovation of Coleman House I and II will be the fourth major modernization of 2Life's older 202 portfolio in the past five years, we are confident in their depth of experience and strong track record in occupied rehabilitation and preservation projects. We are aware that 2Life staff has engaged Coleman residents throughout the renovation planning and is incorporating their feedback into design decisions. 2Life has communicated clearly with the Newton Department of Senior Services (NDSS) when construction and renovation plans may be impacting their residents. They solicited input on how those impacts might be minimized while assuring the continued quality of life residents have come to expect.

This project achieves important community development goals in the City of Newton. We hope the Community Preservation Committee fully funds 2Life's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donna Murphy', is written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Donna Murphy, Chair Newton Council on Aging

[*Living and Aging in Newton: Now and in the Future](#)

Community Preservation Program Manager
City of Newton Planning and Development Dept.
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton MA 02459

Wednesday November 18, 2020

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

My name is Joan Slaby. I am 88 years old and have lived at Coleman House for 9 years. I think it's important to tell you that previous to living at Coleman House, I lived at affordable housing in another suburb of Boston. You would be ashamed to have that housing in the City of Newton. I think it is also notable that in addition to the building we live in, 2 Life Communities strives to keep residents engaged within the community, helping us to live longer and healthier lives. My children are so grateful I live here.

In spite of the fact that we live in a safe and well kept facility, there are changes that are necessary to the safety of our daily lives. For example, most of us have difficulty stepping into the tub for a shower. I myself have a stool with a sturdy handle to assist me. The kitchen cupboards are deep and dark making

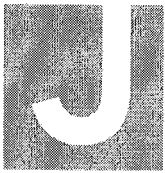
it difficult to obtain articles from the back of the shelves. I think everyone without exception will tell you that the windows are impossible to open. Those are just a few of the obvious issues. I'll leave the professionals important work such as the roof, masonry, electricity and plumbing.

I appreciate the opportunity to bring my thoughts to you. The Coleman House Senior Housing Preservation Progress Proposal by 2 Life Communities is critical to ensure the preservation of high quality affordable housing for future generations and one the City of Newton would be proud of. I believe 2 Life's track record is evident & we residents have been a part of the planning and they have welcomed our feedback.

This is an important project for current and future residents. I sincerely hope the City of Newton and The Community Preservation Committee will fully fund 2 Life's proposal.

In closing I would like to add that I am proud to live in the City of Newton. It is a fine example of what a community should be and Coleman House is a fine example of what affordable housing should be.

Sincerely, Joan Slaby
Apt. 221 677 Wenchester St.
617-916-9210 Newton MA 02459



JCC Greater
Boston

Community Preservation Program Manager,
City of Newton Planning & Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Monday, November 16, 2020

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Coleman House Senior Housing Preservation project proposed by 2Life Communities. We support this renovation project and believe it is critical to ensure the preservation of high quality affordable housing for future generations.

2Life is a mission-driven non-profit organization, dedicated to high-quality senior living environments with a laser sharp focus on affordability and a strong track record in Newton. This is evidenced by the fact that following a 2018 refinance of Coleman House, 2Life is putting those proceeds back into this project to fund the preservation project.

Since the renovation of Coleman House I and II will be the fourth major modernization of 2Life's older 202 portfolio in the past five years, we are confident in their depth of experience and strong track record in occupied rehabilitation and preservation projects. 2Life staff has engaged Coleman residents throughout the renovation planning and is incorporating their feedback into design decisions.

We appreciate that the scope of the renovation is comprehensive including: reconfiguring the apartments to meet 2Life's adaptable design standards and accessibility requirements, a life-cycle investment to preserve building systems (masonry, roof, windows, HVAC, electrical and plumbing) and redesign of the program spaces to serve as a village center for residents.

This project achieves important community development goals in the in the City of Newton. Coleman House is a vital campus partner to the JCC and we appreciate 2Life's responsible stewardship by preserving this campus asset for another 30+ years. We hope the Community Preservation Committee fully funds 2Life's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Sokoll', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Sokoll

CEO and President

Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston

333 Nahanton Street

Newton, MA 02459