

VIA HAND DELIVERY

April 11, 2019

Gregory R. Schwartz, Chairman
Land Use Committee
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Northland Hearing April 9, 2019

Dear Chairman Schwartz,


At the March 12 Land Use meeting, I described a thoughtful and collaborative public/private process that made me proud to be a member of the Newton community.

That is not how I felt Tuesday night. Over the years, we have met thousands of Newton residents at hundreds of meetings and have always engaged in an honest and respectful dialogue, with opponents and supporters alike. Until Tuesday night. On Tuesday night, members of our community were disrespectful and mean, and bullied and verbally assaulted their neighbors.

Northland's roots in Newton run deep, forty-nine years. We have been deliberative, respectful, responsive, and professional throughout this special permit process. We believe NND is the right decision for our community, that it will be a city treasure, a living model of affordable housing, sustainability, design, open space, aging in community, and historic preservation. We respect that others may disagree with our vision. We ask for that same respect in return.

I trust that, for the next and last substantive public hearing, protocols will be put in place to ensure that our team and our supporters are safe.

Very truly yours,



Lawrence Gottesdiener
Chairman and CEO

cc: Chairman Schwartz
Councilor Auchincloss
Councilor Crossley
Councilor Greenberg
Councilor Kelley
Councilor Laredo
Councilor Lipof
Councilor Markiewicz