



Marc Laredo
Chair
City Council Land Use Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Comm. Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

May 1, 2017

Dear Chairman Laredo

The Newton-Needham Chamber enthusiastically supports the new proposed re-zoning approach to the Washington Place project.

Washington Place will contribute substantially towards the revitalization of Newtonville; bringing new customers and vitality to our village merchants and restaurants. It would also contribute significantly to the housing crisis that exists in both Newton and Eastern Massachusetts and is of great concern to business owners as they struggle to find housing to support their workforce.

While some have expressed interest in seeing part of this project dedicated to office space, the urgent need for transit-oriented development presently supersedes the need for more office space. Our members consistently tell us that filling jobs is their number one challenge these days and the top two impediments to filling those jobs is a shortage of housing and inadequate mass transit. To that end, we appreciate that this project will provide 25 percent of the units at below market-rate, as well as pedestrian, bike, and transit improvements and amenities, as well as transportation subsidies.

Newtonville and Newton will significantly benefit from this project. We urge the committee to approve this project quickly and move it to the full City Council.

Sincerely,

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

Greg Reibman
President
Newton-Needham Regional Chamber
617-244-1688