

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 11:41 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Orr Block

From: Dan Pike
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 10:25 AM
To: David A. Olson
Cc: 'Neighbors for a Better Newtonville'; emily@emilynorton.org
Subject: Orr Block

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the project in Newtonville centered on the corner of Walnut and Washington Streets.

I grew up in Newton, and now I live on Brookside Ave, four blocks away from the proposed Orr Block Development Proposal. I bought my home when it was time to start my own family. I chose to live in Newtonville because it is a place of neighbors and neighborhoods, a community that welcomes families from diverse backgrounds, with diverse beliefs, who have a range of incomes. Unlike many parts of Newton, the Newtonville area demonstrates that people are welcome who are not just middle or upper class and who can benefit from the great schools and services, as my family has. This is the opposite of what you get when you build multi-story apartment buildings that, as far as I can tell, benefit no one but the developers and, in the very short run, the builders.

The plan, as I understand it, will over-run everything that makes the neighborhood what it is, and turn it into an over-built, over-crowded, over-priced block of downtown Boston dropped onto a suburb. We already have Route 9 as an example of New Jersey ugly ... why should we add more dense-pack into a place that we all moved to in order to *avoid precisely that?*

I walk this neighborhood every day, and when I speak with people about this project, no one, absolutely no one, is in favor of it. A small number of people, **none of them local**, stand to make a lot of money from destroying a neighborhood, and, in the long run, contributing to Newton losing its appeal as a suburb of choice as the 'Garden City.' I cannot begin to understand why the people who have the best interests of Newton would let them proceed. Once they are done, the developer and builders walk away with the money.

I ask all of you... What is your vision for Newton 25 years from now? 50 years from now? We are in the position to be the stewards of our community. Are we really going to just sell it to the highest bidder?

Sincerely,

Dan Pike

59 Brookside Ave.
Newton, MA 02460