


Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 9:46 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Austin Street got the Hydrogen one; Newtonville Square gets the Plutonium.

From: David Wenstrom <dw@wickedlocal.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 9:43 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Fwd: Austin Street got the Hydrogen one; Newtonville Square gets the Plutonium.

 Mr. Olson,

Please forward a copy of the following TAB letter to all the Newton Councilors. The Editor chose not to publish my letter in the latest TAB issue. I would like all the Councilors to know my feelings about the Korff/ Orr block situation.

Thank you,
David Wenstrom
Newtonville
W2P1

-----Original Message-----

From: David Wenstrom <dw@wickedlocal.com>
To: newton.letters <newton.letters@wickedlocal.com>
Sent: Thu, Sep 15, 2016 8:08 am
Subject: Austin Street got the Hydrogen one; Newtonville Square gets the Plutonium.

 Dear Editor:

A TAB letter I wrote a few years ago about the "affordable" housing development at Austin Street was headed: "Newtonville is not Manhattan." The gist of that letter was the "visions" some politicians were hawking around here, seemingly all in a glorified swoon, and in collusion with private developers; that would involve monstrous, out of place and ugly boxes that would encroach upon our (former?) leafy Garden City--especially at "down-and-out" Newtonville Square. To me, these ideas were so "out of place" for the Place. All the while the general public being gulled along here on the unhappy ride, in forced complicity with these Save the World political schemes by our spendthrift local Government the Good. Something like that.

I underestimated these "revitalization" schemes by quite a bit, certainly with this brand new one: "Washington Place", a private development this time; to be dumped right upon ground zero Newtonville Square. (btw: how will the Father of our Country be honored in any way by having a very large and, er, ugly box named in honor of him? Whatzamatterwi'you?) Something that might be compared with the A-bomb Manhattan Project in terms of scale. At the local level, anyway.

Peter Harrington's Commentary (TAB, 9.14.16) refers to this newest Thing of Beauty as a "mall." Good one, Mr. Harrington. At the last City Council powwow, I referred to it as a "prison." Either term will do; decide for yourself which one will (never) enhance the look of the Garden City; never highlight the classical ambiance of any village here; never showcase the Civic Pride of the Villagers (and that means you, O Newtonian).

Mall or prison? Without a doubt, it will be a tough Choice as to what we call the Thing. Oh, what the heck--use both: Six of one, half a dozen of the other. Both terms adequately describe what it will be: a massive eyesore for all. I won't quibble.

Truth be told: Newtonville Square is just quickly becoming a forlorn ruined "sister" village to already destroyed classical Newton Corner-- now just a traffic thruway. (Best Wishes to all Newtonians who have have to put up with-- trudge along with-- the political Visions about all this). Thank you all for not fleeing back to the longed-for leafy and greener suburbs at Boston or...Manhattan Island.

And I don't want to live next to a prison.

David Wenstrom
Crafts Street
NewtonVILLE