

Email to dolson@newton.

January 9, 2017

To All the Newton Councilors;

I am writing to urge you to vote to keep the current zoning as it is. Why?

Newton, all the villages have a certain character and feel to them. I have lived in West Newton, Newton Centre, and Newtonville. Newtonville is a vibrant community with local shops and a neighborhood that is cozy, warm, and connected.

I do not need nor want (like most of us who actually live in Newtonville, not Waban, not Chestnut Hill and not Brookline) high 5 and 6 story buildings causing more density, environmental problems, increasing our traffic, pollution, and overcrowded schools just to name a few concerns.

I am for low income and affordable housing. There is no need to have 4 and 5 and 6 story buildings in order to have mixed use and affordable housing. I was informed that Newton has met its quota for low income and affordable housing, but much of these units were not counted (my son who has special needs lives in one of those units in Auburndale Housing)

I have been to almost all of the meetings for the Orr Building development as well as the Austin Street Project. I am appalled at how many of Newton's elected Councilors have their own agenda and no regard for what all this development is doing to Newton as a whole. I would hope that the Councilors from Ward 2 especially vote to keep our zoning as is. If the zoning changes this will set precedent for all of Washington Street and other Newton villages to keep pushing the envelope and developers will eventually ask for higher and higher bigger more dense construction. Just look at Watertown and Waltham. Do we want to be another Boston? No. Please send a message to other developers that our zoning stands as is for a reason, for the health and welfare of the people who live here and breathe the air, see the clouds and sunshine without high dense buildings taking over.

We voted for you to work for us and do what is best for our villages and community. Please do the right thing and preserve the village of Newtonville.

Thank you,

Gail Gordon
32 Walnut Place
Newtonville