

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2016 3:35 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: Fw: The Orr Block -- Three Things You Can Do Now

Sent using OWA for iPhone

From: Jane&Larry Wilcox
Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2016 8:37:05 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Re: The Orr Block -- Three Things You Can Do Now

Hello David,

We are strongly opposed to the development of the Orr Block. We are huge fans of Newtonville Camera and some of the businesses in that block.

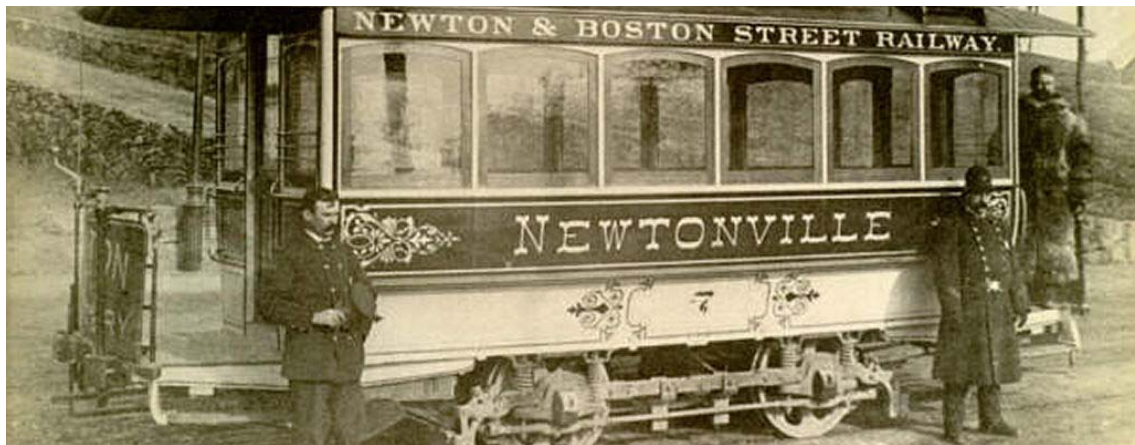
We object to the over- development which would add more parking woes to the area, which we are not looking forward to. Thank you.

Very sincerely yours,
Jane and Larry Wilcox

On Dec 9, 2016, at 3:01 PM, Neighbors for a Better Newtonville <info@betternewtonville.org> wrote:

Neighbors for a Better Newtonville -- ALERT!

[View this email in your browser](#)



Neighbors for a Better Newtonville (NBN) is a group of residents who want to preserve and strengthen the best of what our village offers while encouraging such change as will enhance and invigorate it. For more information, visit our [website](#).

LAST CHANCE

Crunch Time

A vote on the Orr Block proposal is very close at hand. There are **three** things you can do to help.

Do at least one of them!
Read on.



1. Be Seen and Heard at the Final LUC Meeting for Public Comment!

The final Land Use Committee meeting for public comment is this coming **Thursday, December 15, at 7 PM**, at **City Hall** (2nd floor Aldermanic Chambers).

It's vital that we fill both sides of the chamber with our supporters. Attend, speak briefly,

let the Councilors know that you care about overdeveloping the Orr Block.

2. Last Public Hearing Before Planning Board Vote!

The final Planning Board meeting for public comment will be on **January 11, at 7 PM**, at **City Hall** (2nd floor). Their vote could influence the LUC vote. (See way down below for an explanation of what the Planning Board is.)

If you didn't speak to the Planning Board already, consider expressing your views. Or just come and be there.

Note: IF you want to speak, we'll be sending out a notice later about what topics are acceptable. The Planning Board is not concerned about the specifics of the buildings themselves (height, appearance, number of units, etc.). But put Jan. 11 on your calendar!

3. Write a Letter or Email!

It's easy to do and very important. Here's an example: <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/78138>.

WHY

The final public LUC hearing, December 15, is a major milestone. After that meeting the LUC will make its decision, and this will obviously carry weight when the full council votes afterward.

The councilors pay attention to these letters, both the content and how many there are. Right now, Mr. Korff's people have logged more letters than we have. That's an easy situation to remedy.

WHAT

Long or short (a single paragraph is fine). Info-packed or very simple. Be respectful and clear; those are the only requirements.

HOW

Send your email or letter to David Olson, City Clerk.

- By email: Write message directly in email body, or attach a file. In subject line put "Orr Block." Send to dolson@newtonma.gov
- By U.S. mail: Send your letter to David Olson, City Clerk, Newton City Hall, 1000 Walnut St., Newton MA 02459

Forward this newsletter to a few friends or neighbors so they can also write.

This is a very effective use of your time. Do it now. There should be a letter from every one of us.

Planning Board Keeps Public Hearing Open

At a meeting on December 5, the Planning Board listened to testimony about the Korff proposal to rezone the Orr Block from Business Use (reasonable size buildings) to Mixed Use (big dense buildings). NBN members, abutters, and others made a solid showing against rezoning. At least 15 spoke, with content and passion. Mr. Korff and his people were there too, but we more than held our own.

The board agreed to continue the public hearing. That's a positive development. At the next meeting — **January 11, 2017, at 7 PM** — we need again to fill the seats and have new speakers describe why this rezoning is bad for Newtonville.

In case you're confused. The Planning Board is composed of volunteer citizens. It's important because if it rejects the rezoning petition, the final vote by the City Council will require 18 votes to pass (not 16) — in other words, we will not need as many councilors on our side.

In contrast, the Planning Department is not independent. It reports to the mayor and pushes his plan for a much denser city.

Finally, the Land Use Committee has one city councilor from each ward. The LUC will have its final public comment session on December 15. Afterwards, it will make a recommendation to the full City Council.

From This Week's *Newton Tab*

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