

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 5:03 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Orr Block ...

From: James Fleming
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 2:59 PM
To: David A. Olson
Cc: Susan Albright; Emily Norton
Subject: re: Orr Block ...

Good afternoon -

I have been a Newtonville resident for the past twenty-five years. I have attended several of the meetings held in the Council Chamber in City Hall and listened to the opinions of opponents and supporters of the Orr project. I am writing to state my opposition to the project as currently proposed in Newtonville on the corner of Walnut and Washington Streets.

There is no need to change the zoning law as it currently stands. I am not opposed to development. I am not opposed to change. These laws were written to protect the integrity of the community, the residents and citizens of Newton. The developer can build a structure within the zoning laws as they now stand, affording him approximately 103 units - and I am sure a fair profit. If affordable housing is the goal, I am all for it, and I believe it can be accomplished within the current zoning statutes.

Any change or proposal to grant a zoning waiver to circumvent current zoning laws to allow a developer to build a structure larger than allowed by current regulations goes against the spirit and intent of those laws. In addition it bestows greater benefit to the developer at the expense of the community.

I do not wish to see Washington Street become the next Needham Street - an area I avoid at all costs due to congestion and traffic. Or look at Arsenal Street in Watertown between Watertown Square and Allston / Brighton, another street suffering from the ugliness of the new wave of "dense urban development".

Finally, I refer you to two published pieces. The first is an article in the Boston Globe of May 19, 2016 entitled "*Brookline celebrates new affordable-housing development*" in which it notes, "All of the units are affordable to households making at or below 60 percent of the median income...". The second piece is in the Newton-Needham Regional Chamber publication IN BUSINESS, the June-July 2016 edition. Page 3 of this publication has a piece stating, "*Newton: Wealthiest City in the Northeast*". I offer these two pieces and ask the question, if this administration is so concerned about affordable housing, why isn't Newton, the wealthiest city in the Northeast, instead of Brookline, leading by example ?

Affordable housing -Yes ! Sustainable growth - Yes ! Unbridled development - NO!

Thank you for the time you have taken to read my letter.

Regards,

Jim Fleming
21 Blithedale Street
Newtonville, MA

p.s. Mr. Olson, please share my letter with all Councilors and the Mayor. Thank you.