

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 3:11 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Tonight's LUC Mtg. re Orr Block. Photos of nearby high-density apt houses next to ordinary houses. Please forward today to City Councilors.
Attachments: 3-stories over garage next to house Watertown.JPG; 4 Stories Over Garage Near single-family house Watertown.JPG; 5-stories over garage next to single-family house Watertown.JPG

From: Kathleen Kouril Grieser
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 3:05 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Tonight's LUC Mtg. re Orr Block. Photos of nearby high-density apt houses next to ordinary houses. Please forward today to City Councilors.

Dear Mr. Olson,

Would you kindly forward the message below and the three attached photos today to all the members of the City Council and make them part of the record (including posting to the City's website) in the matter of "Washington Place". Thank you so much.

Yours truly,
 Kathleen Kouril Grieser
 Mill Street

Dear Members of the City Council,

At the most recent LUC meeting on the Korff project, Chairman Laredo suggested that the councilors might want to go out and drive around and look at new 4 and 5-story apartment buildings next to single-family or two-family houses in regular neighborhoods. As you all know, every time a large high-density housing project in Newton is proposed it is met with tremendous opposition (Riverside, Austin Street, Court Street, Wells Avenue, St. Phillip Neri, Staples-Crafts, the Orr Block...). It is clear that no one in Newton actually wants one of these things in their village center or neighborhood.

If, as our pro-densification Planning Department and the property speculators tell us incessantly, millennials or downsizing seniors want to overpay to live in these kinds of rabbit hutches, they don't have to go far. I took the attached three photos along Pleasant St. in Watertown about 1 minute's drive from the Newton border. There are thousands of such "walkable" units in "vibrant" urban centers with great restaurants in Watertown, Waltham and Needham, just minutes from friends who wish to remain in a non-densified Newton. There is an abundance of such rental opportunities very nearby, and therefore, no need to transform and densify Newton. Since the millennials and seniors don't have children, as we are so often told, they don't need to access the Newton public schools, but can still enjoy shopping and dining in Newton's charming village centers whenever they like.

The property speculators' vision of Newton is not the vision of your constituents, and it is not the best, or only, way to accommodate the regional "need" for housing choice for those whom, we are told, prefer to live in rental apartments rather than owning houses.

I hope you find the photos of these new apartment buildings popping up near Newton's borders informative.

Yours truly,
 Kathleen Kouril Grieser
 Mill Street



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