

Dear Councilors

I am a 40 plus year resident of Newtonville and reside at at 345 Newtonville Ave. I am opposed to the Orr project, as proposed, in Newtonville centered on the corner of Walnut and Washington Streets.

I urge you to vote NO to developer Korf's proposal to change the Zoning on the Orr Block from Business Use (reasonable size buildings) to Mixed Use (big dense buildings). Neighbors for a Better Newtonville members, abutters, and other concerned residents made a solid showing against rezoning at a recent Planning Board meeting. Please, listen to the intelligent, respectful views of resident citizens.

Also, I understand that about 50 people who presently live within the perimeter of the Orr space, will be displaced and would likely be unable to return to the property because they will not be able to afford the price of the new dwellings. This is very worrisome to me, that we lose residents who would stay if they could. And, more broadly, rental prices usually rise in the area when newer rentals raise the price, thus often affecting other owners to raise theirs. I believe that Newtonville's rents will take a significant leap based on the influence of these new buildings. Do we really want to continue to push people out of their homes?

In addition, I understand that there will be 151 units and 91 parking spaces. Also, if you grant yet another special permit to give the developer permission for non-standard, very tight parking spaces, it will be even worse for all involved. (Have you ever tried to park in one of those undersized spaces?) No matter what parking there is, there will be still be additional spaces needed for parking outside- let's settle this now with foresight.

In the very least, I would urge councilors to not approve the special permit that the developer seeks to change, the present height restriction, The building would be much higher than anything around this area., and will only set a precedent for more of the same the village. Please vote against this project as it now stands.

Thank you for your service and listening to the residents' input .

Sincerely,

Linda M Wolk