

**Nadia Khan**

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**From:** David A. Olson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 8:03 AM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Cc:** Nadia Khan  
**Subject:** FW: Orr Block Rezoning

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**From:** Louise Knapp Page |  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 10:22 PM  
**To:** David A. Olson  
**Cc:** [\[mailto:knapp@newtonma.gov\]](#)  
**Subject:** Orr Block Rezoning

Dear Newton City Councilors:

I am writing to register my opposition to re-zoning the Orr Block for the sole purpose of allowing the currently proposed development project to proceed.

The massiveness and height of the proposed Orr Block development are far out of proportion to the surrounding neighborhood buildings. The Orr block could definitely use improvement, visually, but not at the cost of changing the character of this suburban neighborhood to an urban wasteland.

In addition, approval to change zoning for this Orr development, as it is currently conceived, would only encourage the same, or other, developers to fill the space on Washington Street between Newton Corner to Newtonville with similar, massive, structures. Please don't extend the dark, cold, empty, urban feel of the Exit 17/Newton Corner/Washington St. area any further west down Washington Street. It would be unconscionable to obliterate the likes of Cabot's Ice Cream and drown out historical and unique neighborhood sites like the Jackson Homestead and the Adams St. neighborhood.

Newton Corner, Newtonville, and West Newton suffered inordinately many years ago from the Turnpike construction & its maze-like intersections over which they eventually had no control and were, arguably, actually punished by the Turnpike Authority for their "obstructionism." *Please seek to help continue to build back Newtonville, which is once again, finally, struggling to retain what's left of its identity. Newton Corner has been a lost cause for many years, but Newtonville does, still, have a chance if you keep the zoning unchanged.*

Thank you,  
Louise Knapp Page  
116 Westchester Road  
Newton, MA 02458