

**Nadia Khan**

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**From:** David A. Olson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:09 PM  
**To:** Nadia Khan  
**Subject:** FW: Orr Block

**From:** Lynne LeBlanc [  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:08 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Orr Block

Dear Esteem City Councilors,

Coincidentally, the MBTA has a new schedule in the works. Ironically, it flies in the face of the developer's plans to build "transit oriented" developments (I say plural because plans for further development along Washington Street are clearly in the works). The Orr Block will be built in 2-3 years yet the "transit" of the transit oriented development must wait for a first a feasibility study? Then, the haranguing and haggling over how to fund it? And when appropriations are finally settled, the rebuilding of the lines and stations, might we be lucky to have this settled by 2040? This is ridiculous. If the Council is in favor of this and the Austin Street developments and is touting the benefits of accessible transportation, why haven't solutions been more forthcoming, more actively pursued, and with assurances of more timely results?

The worry from many who are opposed to the Orr project is the radical change that will happen not just to Newtonville but to all of Newton with this rezoning. The Orr block will encroach on the Newtonville Historic District, to be sure, but it will also present a hardship to the entire village for many years to come. Sadly, there is a palpable sense of resignation from many residents that our Councilors are not looking out for the best interests of we, the residents who have voted for you, who pay taxes, and who have invested our lives in this fine city. Rather, there is a worry that "experts" of every kind have taken over our City and seem able to convince our Councilors that we, the tax-payers and voters, don't matter as much as they. The reciprocity of consistent and dependable zoning is a moral contract the City has with each home-owner. The breach of that contract in the name of progress is not only absurd but insulting.

By all means, please allow the developer to build within the rights with which he purchased these Newtonville buildings. I respectfully urge you, however, to vote against the special permit and rezoning of the Orr Block.

Kindest regards,

Lynne LeBlanc

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