

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:02 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Washington Place -- Opposition

From:
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:53 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Washington Place -- Opposition

DEAR MR. DOLSON ~~ I hope you will read, and seriously consider, this message from a concerned citizen.

I have been a resident of Newton for nearly 50 years, most of that time as a homeowner near the proposed development at the corner of Washington & Walnut Streets. As I've followed the debate over this project, and attended meetings at City Hall, my own concerns have crystalized as follows:

- 1) **DISLOCATION:** All of the present occupants of these buildings, both residential and commercial, would need to move during construction. That's understood. But several whom I know personally would not be able to return, due to significantly higher rents. For them it means not relocation, but dislocation.
- 2) **TRAFFIC:** The present traffic pattern, and traffic volume, are already difficult to navigate, for both drivers and pedestrians. But the increase would be significantly moreso, perhaps enough to (A) endanger people trying to cross at the intersection, especially students from Newton North and Day Middle Schools, and to (B) discourage would-be customers from frequenting that area.
- 3) **SIZE:** The massive nature of the development, encompassing several existing blocks and rising high above street level, is out of proportion, and out of character, with the rest of the neighborhood. With another large-scale project soon to dominate the Austin Street area only a block away, we simply do not need another one so close by.

Please pass along my comments to the Newton City Council. And thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Rev. Barton L. Kelso 11 Harrington St. Newtonville, MA 02460 - 1525