

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 11:43 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Massive objection to the Newtonville project

From: Rick Sheehy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:28 AM
To: David A. Olson
Cc: Setti D. Warren
Subject: Massive objection to the Newtonville project

Good morning,

I am a native resident of Newtonville and currently reside at 125 Edinboro Street. I can't state in simple words how much I am opposed to the project in Newtonville centered on the corner of Walnut and Washington Streets. Simply put it is nothing but an attack on the character of Newton.

I simply can't understand how a project like this got past zoning as it is unfit for any city never mind Newton. From what I have read in the Tab there will be 151 units and 91 parking spaces? Math was always my worst subject in school but even I can see that isn't right. In an area with tight parking we are expecting a minimum of 60 cars to be rolled up like newspapers at night?

If you want to see how bad this would be drive over to Stop & Shop in Watertown via the North Street entrance. The Currents on the Charles project promised there would be plenty of parking for every resident yet if you over there at 8PM on a week night there are cars parked up and down the drive way to the store and it has also caused problems with Stop & Shop since they park there in snow storms.

I'm also opposed to the development as it will destroy a number of small businesses. I have been going to Joe's Barber shop since I was a child. It is a classic old barbershop and it's run by some amazingly hardworking people. It is a true treasure of Newton. Oddly they are having a hard time getting anyone from the city to listen to their concerns despite close to 50 years in business. Also they have won Best of Boston award from Boston Magazine several times which is quite the feat.

Newtonville Camera is also another credit to the city of Newton. They are considered one of the premier photography equipment stores not only in Newton but in both the state and, often, in the country. They are a local treasure and should be allowed to continue. Much like Joe's they are not hearing any words of support from the city.

I'm also seeing through the smokescreen of the developers. I think we all know you ask for 10 because you want 5. Here they are asking for 5 because they want 3.

My main concern is that Newtonville will become like Newton Center. The Newton Center of my youth was populated by small stores which focused on the needs of the residents not only of Newton but of the region. I went to Junior Bootery every year for my back to school shoes. While I freely admit there are some great local stores there one looks around and sees an area more Rodeo Drive than a part of Newton.

I don't object to the evolution of Newtonville, quite the opposite. I object to the destruction of what makes Newtonville such a key part of my life. Massachusetts has a very well deserved reputation as a state that is hostile to small business and I speak from first hand knowledge of this. Let's not replace a treasure like Joe's with CVS. Newton can survive not having a bigger CVS but killing of key members of our community such as Joe's and Newtonville Camera. Please vote against this project.

Thank you for your service and keeping this city as a wonderful community

Sincerely,
Rick Sheehy