

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:01 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Washington Place

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:13 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Washington Place

Newton City Councillors,

I am a 30 year Newton resident. I ask you, please, to not support the zoning change allowing the project to be built at 5 stories. This height is far greater than the two-story Orr Block or the 3 story adjacent building on Washington Street.

The purpose of zoning laws is to protect the city from extensive expansion where the result will not be consistent with the surrounding neighborhood. Nowhere else in Newton are there 5 story commercial buildings in existing neighborhoods, except in Newton Corner, which has lost it's neighborhood character because of the excessive commercial expansion when the MA Pike cut through the area. A similar large commercial block is on Union Street in Newton Centre. It is only three stories. And, because of it's design character and sloping roof, it does not overwhelm the adjacent buildings.

While the Washington Place project has much merit in it's occupancies, the height is problematic. Please, do not vote for the zoning change to allow 5 stories.

Thank you,

Stephen Hamilton
155 Sumner Street
Newton, MA 02459