

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:01 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Against Special Permit for Washington Place

From: Tommy Peterson | [\[mailto:tommy.peterson@cityofnewtonville.com\]](#)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:06 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Against Special Permit for Washington Place

Hello Mr Olson,

Please forward this e-mail to the City Council. Thanks

Dear Councillors,

I would like to voice my objection to the issuance of a special permit for the proposed development at the corner of Walnut and Washington streets.

The notion of more affordable housing for the city and promoting a more vital business community in Newtonville is a good one. Those goals can, however, be accomplished within the limits of what the developer can build by right. Adding stories so that the proposed structure looms over the intersection will add nothing to the neighborhood but plenty to the developer's bottom line. It would seem that as a successful businessman, the developer must have purchased that large swath of property with some knowledge that he could make a profit without a boost from the City Council.

I have attended several of the public meetings about the development and have been simultaneously depressed and amused by the fables spun about inner courtyards beside parking lots becoming neighborhood gathering places. And then there's the one about narrowing Washington Street, thereby exacerbating current traffic problems, to make wider pedestrian walkways for sidewalk cafes. I can see it now, sort of like the Champs Elysees 50 yards from the Pike. Oh, and there will be a specialty grocery store, thank goodness, since there's only Whole Foods, Trader Joe's and Shaw's within walking distance now.

Given the developments our neighborhood is already absorbing (the massive and ugly Court Street project) or will have to absorb soon (Austin Street), it seems only fair that the Council limit the Washington Place development to what the developer can do by right.

Thanks for your attention. Please do the right thing and deny the special permit.

Tommy Peterson
11 Omar Terrace
Newtonville 02460

