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Councilor-at-Large Amy Mah Sangiolo
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Room 105
Newton Centre, MA 02459

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Newton City Clerk
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David A. Olson, CMO
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Councilor Sangiolo,

One of the most discussed and salient issues among Newton residents and business owners is the future of development in our city. Personally, I support the idea of smart, sustainable, innovative developments that prioritize housing affordability with mixed-use opportunities to expand both the number of housing units available in Newton and commercial activity as well. Washington Place is one such project in Newtonville that I strongly believe you and the City Council should approve right away.

As you know, there is a very real and burdensome housing crunch for many people in just about every neighborhood in Newton. The developers of Washington Place are clearly aware of this and informed on the challenge because they are going above and beyond what is required of them with low-cost housing. By law, most apartment developments must offer 15% of all units at affordable rates tied to a percentage of average median income. Washington Place will offer an additional 10% that is just slightly up the scale of average median income. With this focus on workforce housing, Washington Place will help to at least partially slow down the immense level of gentrification that is impacting long-time Newton residents all over the city. This goal is truly a noble one, and I hope other developers are paying attention.

Washington Place is in direct accordance with the city's stated goal to dramatically increase the amount of affordable housing available in our community in the coming years. Please authorize its construction and give some more middle class people a chance to affordably stay in Newton.

Best wishes,

