

Councilor Brian E. Yates
& City Clerk David Olson
Newton City Hall
10000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Michael Alexander
87 Rockland Place
Newton, 02464

Dear Councilor Yates,

Mark Development's Washington Place project is going to turn the corner of Washington Street and Walnut Street into a refreshing community center with both homes and small stores/restaurants. This is a welcomed addition to an area that has long needed something new to attract more business.

Beyond that, the project also proposes public green space and art displays, improvements to the Walnut Street bridge, and traffic management updates. These are all noteworthy additions to Newtonville that we should be excited for. Washington Place is a forward-thinking development in many regards but the most important issue this project tackles head-on is the growing displacement problem that too many people are enduring across Newton.

Over the last few decades, Newton has become an unbelievably expensive place to live. Historically, Newton was always a place where working class people could thrive. Sadly, that is not the case anymore.

I commend Mark Development for making affordability a cornerstone of their Washington Place proposal. We need more housing developments that will address this problem and help make Newton a more affordable place once again.

Thank you,


Michael Alexander