

**Councilor Barbara Brousal-Glaser
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton Centre, 02459**

**Edwin W. Davol
106 Russell Rd.
Newton, MA 02465**

Dear Councilor Brousal-Glaser,

I am writing to share my support for the Washington Place project. This project proposes to transform the Orr Block in Newtonville in a way that will revitalize the area economically, including over 40,000 square feet of commercial space. It will also transform the Orr Block socially as the project also calls for over 10,000 square feet of outdoor greenspace and other community-oriented areas. Bringing this welcoming community center to Newtonville will enhance the village feel here while bringing a boost to businesses in the area as well.

Washington Place also directly tries to push back on a major problem we have here in Newton. Housing for the middle class here is becoming increasingly less affordable. I see how much of a problem this is when members of our community—many who are Newton's firefighters, teachers, cops, or other public servants—are struggling to stay here or have already moved away. We need some affordable rental options in Newton and Washington Place provides that. I ask that you and your colleagues on the council vote favorably for this project when the time to make a final decision on zoning and permitting comes later this fall. Thank you very much.

Best wishes,



DAVID A. OLSON, CNO
NEWTON, MA 02459

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