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Newton City Clerk

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Honorable Newton City Councilor Victoria Danberg:

Newton, along with many other cities and towns surrounding Boston, is in the middle of a housing crisis. As the Boston area has become one of the country's leading innovative economies, demand for housing has increased. It is time for us to better prepare for the ongoing structural economic challenges posed by this. More affordable housing is vital to protect Newton from these housing market cost surges.

Washington place is a part of the solution to this problem. This development will provide 43 affordable housing units to Newton residents. These units will be offered to Newton families first before others are considered in the affordable housing lottery. This shows just how much the developer is paying attention to this problem and how much they want to help fix it.

The project will also replace the Orr Block, which isn't necessarily the most attractive building in Newtonville. In fact the entire area is very decrepit. People generally don't want to stop and window shop in an area like this, and something is needed to bring new life to the neighborhood. Washington place will do that and the surrounding businesses will thank the Council for approving it. Please vote in favor of the zoning changes needed to get this done.

Sincerely,

