

RECEIVED
Newton City Clerk

Councilor at Large Amy Mar Sangiolo:
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The Washington Place development in Newtonville is a beautifully designed commercial and residential development proposed to replace the run-down Orr Block on the corner of Washington and Walnut St. It will be a three building development ranging between four and five stories high that will bring new commercial opportunities to the area as well as 171 rental units, many of which will be offered at affordable rates.

Gentrification is affecting many communities in the Boston area, especially Newton. Housing prices are simply becoming too high for many to remain in the communities where they grew up or currently work. Newton, due to the sustained effort of both citizens and leaders in local government, has created a beautiful, prosperous community. Our children have greatly benefited from the resources available to us. Now there is a threat that they will not have the opportunity to bring their children up in the same circumstances. Many are being loaded up with college debt and either move back in with their parents or move out of town. An increased amount of affordable housing options in Newton will help fix this problem.

The Washington Place project's affordable housing rental units are going to be offered to Newton residents first. That means we can at least slightly slow the continuous exodus of Newton residents caused by absurdly high housings prices. I ask that you support Washington Place and other projects similar to it that prioritize affordability.

Thanks for your consideration,

W + Steve Golan
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