

Councilor Richard Blazar
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Abe Menzin
37 Hillside Road,
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

Dear Councilor Blazar,

I am a strong proponent of smartgrowth development, including transit-oriented mixed-income housing and mixed-use development. As a practitioner in the industry, I have seen firsthand the benefits of these projects, which include increased public transit-use, reduced traffic congestion, greater socio-economic diversity, revitalization of streetscapes, and more engaging pedestrian connections.

I believe the Washington Place development in Newtonville is an optimal site for retail and medium density housing development of the nature that has been proposed. There is a scarcity of appropriate sites for transit-oriented housing in Newton, and a project of the nature that has been proposed would be a significant improvement over what exists today. The proponent's commitment to provide affordable housing is an important attribute that should be preserved during the approval process, as it is a significant reason that I support the project.

I respectfully request that the City Council approve a project that achieves these important public benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abe Menzin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Abe Menzin