

**Rajab Mayanja**  
**75 Allison Street**  
**Newton, MA 02458**

Dear Councilor Leary,

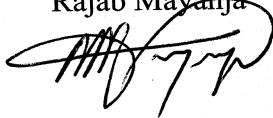
I would like to take a couple moments of your time to speak on behalf of the Washington Place Project (also known as the Orr Building redevelopment). The redevelopment is going to affect Newton in many ways both for our community and the economy. Washington Place is going to repurpose this space that is currently being underutilized by creating a downtown-type space for Newtonville that will have restaurants, retail, and other commercial space. By doing this, the project will open up this space to new opportunities in Newtonville.

Washington Place will also offer more affordable housing to a community that is desperately struggling with the costs of housing. This is one of the most pressing issues here in Newton. The cost of owning a home is just too expensive and rental units that are supposedly more attainable are either unaffordable or non-existent. People are being pushed out and just about anyone in Newton has either dealt with this problem directly or indirectly, regardless of their income level.

Washington Place will add more affordable housing to Newton to give some of our friends and neighbors a new chance to stay in Newton. I thank you sincerely for taking time to read my thoughts. I hope you will agree with me.

Thank you,

Rajab Mayanja



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Newton City Clerk  
2016 NOV 18 PM 2:52  
David A. O'Connell  
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