

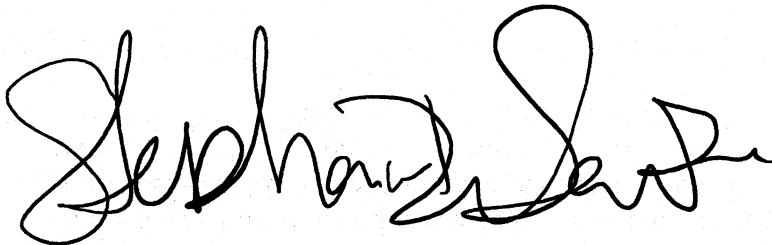
Dear members of the Newton City Council:

Major change is coming to the intersection of Walnut and Washington—and that's not a bad thing.

I'm writing as a long-time Newton resident, who recently relocated to Watertown because it's more affordable. Newton—a town I love—is pushing out its middle-class residents with rising housing costs.

Washington Place is a hopeful solution to the affordability issue impacting individuals, families, and small business owners throughout Newton and Newtonville. In fact, one quarter of the units will be affordable to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. As Mr. Levin points out in his column, additional units would be income-restricted to middle-income renters. These are the young professionals who are critical to our town's economy and the families who are key to Newton's community.

Change can be good, and this is one that will positively impact neighbors and small businesses alike. As it stands, the Orr block is old and underutilized. As Washington Place, it will be woven into something better. I am proud to support Washington Place as an affordable housing option for middle-class Newton residents.



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