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2016 DEC 20 PM 12: 25

David A. Olson, CMC Newton, MA 02459

Councilor Richard Blazar City Hall, Room 105 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA

Comments on the Washington Place Project

Dear Mr. Blazar:

As you know, a local real estate firm is requesting that the Newton City Council approve rezoning in the pursuit of the Washington Place development. Replacing the Orr Block has been a long time coming and I'm excited about the details of this smart and innovative project.

Washington Place would help make Newtonville a more business and tenant friendly place and that will bring many more residents and customers to the area. Another important bonus is that the apartments on floors 2-4 (and 5 in some sections) will have a 25% ratio of low and moderate income housing. This is something that Newton really, really needs and I applaud the developer for going beyond what's required of him on this piece.

I support this project due to the obvious economic perks in the current proposal and the impact that it will have on redevelopment in Newtonville. I hope the Council will too.

Best wishes,