

Memorandum

Subject: Statement on Endorsements
 Date: January 23, 2017
 To: Newton City Council
 CC: Newton Planning Board
 From: Newtonville Area Council



NEWTONVILLE

AREA COUNCIL

2016-2017

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The Newtonville Area Council is concerned that our position was misinterpreted by the Planning Board, as reflected in the Planning Board Minority Report, in which our lack of formal endorsement was construed as non-support for the requested zoning change for Washington Place. We wish to correct false impressions that may exist on our positions and policy.

Since our inception, the Newtonville Area Council has taken a policy of providing neutral analysis and critique of development projects. On both Austin Street and Washington Place, as well as smaller development projects, we have worked diligently with petitioners and the City Council to push for changes that we felt would create better projects, and have pushed for strong public benefits to be considered and incorporated into Special Permits. We view the breadth of opinion among Area Council members as an asset, and our recommendations, as presented to the City Council on these projects, are reached by consensus. Our hope is that our recommendations, reached by consensus rather than divided vote, will carry more weight with City Councilors as they deliberate the petitioners' applications.