



Ruthanne Fuller,
Mayor

Barney Heath,
Director
Planning & Development

Members:

Lizbeth Heyer, Chair
Mark Caggiano
Eliza Datta
Chuck Eisenberg
Kathy Marchi
Josephine McNeil
Marva Serotkin
Stephen Tise

1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459
T 617/796-1120
F 617/796-1142

www.newtonma.gov

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Newton Housing Partnership

May 27, 2021
Honorable Mayor Ruthanne Fuller
Chairperson Lipof
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Honorable Mayor Fuller and Chairperson Lipof,

On behalf of the entire Newton Housing Partnership, thank you for the opportunity to express our continued support for the Riverside project. We are submitting this letter to express our unanimous support for the revised plan, particularly because while the total number of housing units has decreased, the developer has pledged to preserve the original number of tier one units affordable to households earning less than 80% of AMI. We are also pleased that the number of affordable tier two units has increased per the revised inclusionary zoning rules enacted since the original Special Permit was granted.

The Riverside project remains important to the Newton community because of the affordable housing and economic opportunities it generates for 550 families and individuals in a climate-wise transit-oriented location. The project complies with Newton's Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance, including the number and type of affordable units and the distribution of the units throughout the project. The 550 new housing units will also make a significant dent in the supply and demand equation, an important tool to solving our region's housing crisis through Newton's commitment to the Metro Mayor's Coalition landmark housing production goal: to build 185,000 new units by 2030 in 15 surrounding communities. The Partnership also remains impressed with the project's contribution to publicly available open space through improved access to the Charles River.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Partnership, we thank you for supporting this important project and encourage the City Council to vote in support of the revised Special Permit.

Sincerely,

Lizbeth Heyer
Chair, Newton Housing Partnership

CC:
Newton City Council President Susan Albright
Newton City Council