



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 29, 2021

Brooke Lipsitt
Chair, Newton Zoning Board of Appeals
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Newton Housing Partnership's Support for the Dunstan East Project

Dear Chairwoman Lipsitt,

As the Newton Housing Partnership works to advance Mayor Fuller's commitment to be a city that is welcoming to all, we are pleased to submit this letter in strong support of the revised Dunstan East project that is before the ZBA for a Comprehensive Permit. The Partnership believes that this well-planned project will make an important contribution to desperately needed affordable housing in Newton. We are especially pleased with the increased number of affordable units – up from 59 to 76, with 3.4% allocated for households earning under 50% AMI. We are also pleased that the total number of housing units has increased to 302, making 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's original reasons for supporting the project still stand – its appropriate program, massing and density given the transit-oriented location, its enhancement of public amenity space and, its contextual mix of uses that are consistent with the Washington Street vision plan adopted by the City Council in December of 2019.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Partnership, I strongly encourage the ZBA to approve the revised Dunstan East Comprehensive Permit application so this important project can move forward.

Sincerely,

Lizbeth Heyer
Chair, Newton Housing Partnership

CC:
Mayor Ruthanne Fuller
Councilor Andrea Kelley
Councilor Julia Malakie
Councilor Pamela Wright

