## **Newton City Council**



## **Committee of the Whole Report**

### Monday, February 22, 2016

Present: Councilors Fuller (Acting Chair), Albright, Auchincloss, Baker, Blazar, Crossley, Danberg, Harney, Hess-Mahan, Kalis, Lappin, Laredo, Leary, Lennon, Lipof, Norton, Schwartz, and Yates

Absent: Councilors Brousal-Glaser, Ciccone, Cote, Gentile, Rice, and Sangiolo

City staff present: Diana Fisher Gomberg (School Committee Member), Ouida Young (Associate City Solicitor), and Maureen Lemieux (Chief Financial Officer/Chief of Staff)

#### Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#66-16 Authorization to purchase 23 Parkview Avenue for school use

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to purchase 23 Parkview Avenue, including trees and structures on the property, for the purpose of school use and further requesting authorization to one million ten thousand dollars (\$1,010,000) from bonded indebtedness for the Cabot School project to be used to fund the purchase of the property and associated recording fees. [02/09/16 @ 2:46 PM]

Action: Committee of the Whole Approved 15-0-3 (Hess-Mahan, Schwartz, Yates

abstaining)

Note: Chief Financial Officer/Chief of Staff Maureen Lemieux presented the request for authorizations to acquire property at 23 Parkview Avenue for school use and bond \$1,010,000 for the expenses related to the acquisition of the property, including recording fees. The property abuts the Cabot Elementary School, which the City is reconstructing in the near future. Voters approved the funding for the reconstruction of the school as part of the debt exclusion override voted on March 12, 2012. The estimated cost of the project is \$45 million but the City anticipates that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) will be awarding a minimum of \$10 million in grant funds to the City for the construction of the addition/renovation of the school. The City's budget for the project has always included \$3 million for offsite improvements, which includes the acquisition of property.

The Cabot Elementary School is a constrained site and it has always been the administration's hope to improve the site, possibly through the acquisition of property. The City contacted and met with the owners of the three properties that are adjacent the school site at the beginning of the project (see attached Assessor's database Map) to see if there was any interest in selling their properties. At that time, none of the owners were interested; however, Mr. and Mrs. Potter of 23 Parkview Avenue have since contacted the City to say that they would be interested in selling their property to the City. The City offered the owners \$1,000,000 for their property and associated rehousing and moving expenses and the owners agreed to and signed the attached

letter of intent outlining the offer from the City on February 5, 2016. The City is required to pay fair market value for the property and to pay rehousing and moving expenses pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 79A.

The City's assessed value of 23 Parkview is \$583,200 but that amount is based on the January 1, 2015 valuation of property. The real estate market has picked up since that valuation and many Newton properties are selling for substantially more than the assessed value. The property owners have also recently renovated the house. The City and property owner each had appraisals done to determine the current value of the property. The City's appraiser set a value of \$925,000 and the owners' appraiser set a value of \$970,000. After reviewing the appraisals and the law, the Administration felt that a \$1 million offer for the property and the rehousing/moving expenses was appropriate. The \$1 million dollars should be considered a flat fee without any additional compensation for the property and includes all other expenses that the property owners may incur like moving and relocation expenses. The Administration is also asking for an additional \$10,000 for the recording fees associated with the sale of property.

If the City has not closed on the property by April 15, 2016, it will assume responsibility for the mortgage payments. The Letter of Intent states that the property owners may continue to reside at the property through August 1, 2017 without paying rent, property taxes, or water/sewer charges but must provide the City access to the property for survey work, culvert repair, and testing. In addition, the property owners may remove any fixtures within the house or at the site before they move. Ms. Lemieux added that if the property owners wish to move the house to another lot, they could.

There has been no decision on exactly how the property would be incorporated into the Cabot School site plan but it opens up a number of opportunities, such as improvements to site circulation, more parking options, and less hardscape in and around the park. The attached PowerPoint slides show where the property is in relationship to the school and one possibility of how the property could be utilized as part of the site plan. The last slide depicts a cut through road in the rear of the school between Bridges Avenue, which is a one-way street, and Parkview Avenue; that cut through road would allow Parkview Avenue to remain partially open and eliminate the need for a turnaround. The Cabot School Building Committee and Design Review Committee are holding a community forum on March 2, 2016 to get public input on the site plan and traffic circulation on the site. The Administration wants public input before deciding exactly how the 23 Parkview Avenue property will be used..

Chief of Staff Maureen Lemieux completed the presentation by reiterating that the purchase of the property would be very beneficial to the Cabot School Elementary Project. Several councilors voiced their support of the project, as the purchase offers many opportunities to improve the site plan at a very constrained school site. In addition, the offer for the property is reasonable and fair, especially as the property owners are not required to sell their home to the City.

There was a concern that the Council was not provided with real estate price comparables that are usually part of property appraisals. The property next door to 23 Parkview sold for a little over \$1 million, the lot is more than twice the size, and the house is almost twice as large. Based on that, the City seems to be overpaying for 23 Parkview Avenue. Ms. Lemieux responded that the City has the comparables but did not want to put the full loan appraisals into the public record, as they contain personal information and pictures. She is happy to share the information on comparables with any Councilor that is interested.

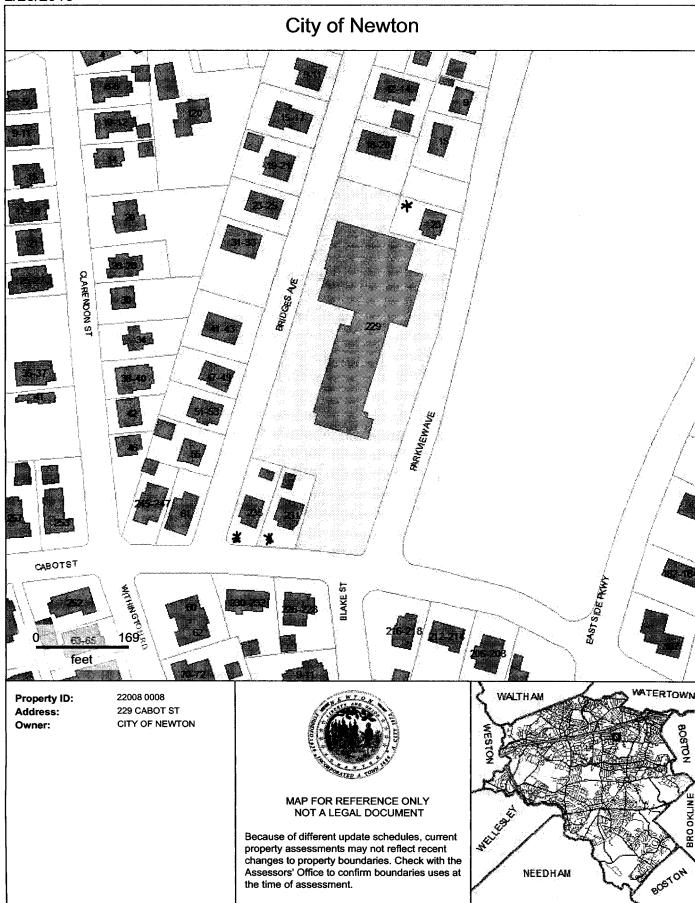
There was interest in what the City would do with the house after the purchase if it were not relocated. It would be a shame if the house were demolished. There should be consideration of recycling whatever house materials are not removed by the property owners. It was suggested that, though it may not be feasible for this property, the City should consider developing a policy to offer buildings that are going to be demolished to other communities for affordable housing.

A question was raised regarding whether there was any negotiation of the price for the home if the property owners opted to relocate the house. It would seem that the City should pay less if the owners relocate the house. Ms. Lemieux explained that there was negotiation with the owners, as they wanted more than the \$1 million offered. It was also pointed out that the City has to offer fair market value for the property and relocation expenses as defined by general law. One of the ways the City met the owners' concerns regarding selling their property to the City was to allow them to take any fixtures that they might want from their newly renovated property. The relocation of the house is very speculative as costs of moving a house are prohibitive. The property owner would need to purchase a lot, install utilities, and build a foundation for the relocated home. In addition, if the City cannot find another place for the house and move it at a reasonable cost, it would be demolished.

Councilor Lipof moved approval of the acquisition of the property and the funding for the acquisition of the property. The Committee of the Whole voted 15 in favor, none opposed, and three abstentions to support the motion. Councilor Hess-Mahan previously stated that he would be abstaining on the vote because he wanted to see the comparables to be sure that both the City and the property owner are getting a fair deal.

Respectfully submitted;

Ruthanne Fuller, Chair



## CITY OF NEWTON LAW DEPARTMENT INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE:

February 19, 2016

TO:

All Members, City Council

FROM:

Ouida C.M. Young, Associate City Solicitor

RE:

Acquisition of 23 Parkview Avenue for School Use

Docket #66-16

As part of the information being presented to the City Council meeting as a Committee of the Whole to consider acquisition of land abutting the Cabot Elementary School, I am transmitting executive summaries from two appraisals of 23 Parkview Avenue. The Owners of the property and the City each had appraisals made. The City used William J. Lanciloti d/b/a Suburban Appraisal Services, who set the value for the property at \$925,000.00. The Owners used Christine Zitso Jaques, who set the value for the property at \$970,000.00.

As you may recall, in addition to paying an owner the fair market value for real property acquired through either a purchase or an eminent domain taking, a governmental entity is also required in Massachusetts to compensate an owner for rehousing and moving expenses pursuant to G.L. c. 79A. These costs can be significant.

I am pleased to report that the Owners of 23 Parkview Avenue, Daphne and Alan Potter, have signed a Settlement Agreement with the City to acquire their property. The terms of that Agreement include all the points set out in the Letter of Intent signed by the parties earlier this month, a copy of which was filed with the Mayor's request for authorization to acquire this property. The Owners have agreed to accept \$1,000,000.00 as compensation for both their home and the rehousing/moving expenses they will incur.

Please call me if you have any questions. I will be attending the meeting on Monday evening.

Thank you.

#### **APPRAISAL OF REAL PROPERTY**

#### **LOCATED AT**

23 Parkview Ave Newton, MA 02460 South Middlesex County Registry of Deeds Book 36268 Page 454

#### FOR

City of Newton 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton Centre, MA 02459

> AS OF 01/22/2016

#### BY

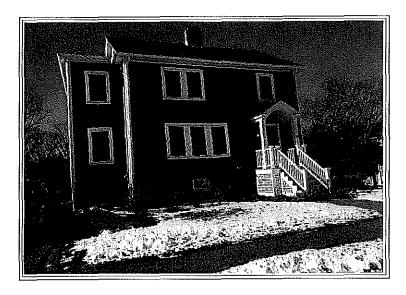
William J. Lanciloti, Jr., SRA Suburban Appraisal Services 727 Washington Street Newton, MA 02480 (617) 969-3006 suburbanappraisal@verizon.net

#### **SUMMARY OF SALIENT FEATURES**

	***	
	Subject Address	23 Parkview Ave
	Legal Description	South Middlesex County Registry of Deeds Book 36268 Page 454
SUBJECT INFORMATION	City	Newton
	County	Middlesex .
CT IN	State	MA
SUBJE	Zip Code	02460
	Gensus Tract	3734.00
	Map Reference	15764
SALES PRICE	Sale Price	\$ o
SALES	Date of Sale	
ENT	Client	City of Newton
CLIENT	Appraiser	William J. Lanciloti, Jr., SRA
	Size (Square Feet)	1,701
SIS	Price per Square Foot	
VEME	Location	Average
DESCRIPTION OF IMPROVEMENTS	Age	91 Years
O NO!	Condition	Good
SCRIPT	Total Rooms	7
円	Bedrooms	3
	Baths	2.1
SER	Appraiser	William J. Lanciloti, Jr., SRA
APPRAISER	Date of Appraised Value	01/22/2016
VALUE	Opinion of Value \$	925,000

R	<u>RESIDENTIAL APPRAISAL S</u>	UMMARY REPORT File No.: 2:	3park
8000	Property Address: 23 Parkview Ave	City: Newton State: MA	Zip Code: 02460
li.	County: Middlesex Lega	Description: South Middlesex County Registry of Deeds Book 3626	8 Page 454
입	9) 11	Assessor's Parcel #: 22-8-7	
SUBJECT	Tax Year: 2016 R.E. Taxes: \$ 6,327 Special As	sessments: \$ 0 Borrower (if applicable): N/A	1
l2	Current Owner of Record: Alan & Daphne Potter	Occupant: 🔀 Owner 🔲 Tenant 🔲 Vacant	Manufactured Housing
200	Project Type: PUD Condominium Coopera		per year per month
300	Market Area Name: Newtonville		Tract: 3734,00
	The purpose of this appraisal is to develop an opinion of:		utius [7] December
	This report reflects the following value (if not Current, see commer	ts): 🔀 Current (the Inspection Date is the Effective Date) 🔲 Retrosper Approach 🔲 Cost Approach 📋 Income Approach (See Reconcillation Cor	
12	Property Rights Appraised: Fee Simple Leasehold	Approach Cost Approach I moone Approach (see Reconstitution Col	nments and Scope of vvolk)
ASSIGNMEN	Intended Use: The purpose of this appraisal is to deter		
힐	The purpose of this appraisal is to deter	mile a market value tor possible sale.	
18	Intended User(s) (by name or type): Provide Opinion of V	due for nossible nurchase	
	Client: City of Newton	Address: 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre, MA	02459
	Appraiser: William J. Lanciloti, Jr., SRA	Address: 727 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02460	02.100
1	Location; Urban 🔀 Suburban 🗌 Rural	Predominant One-Unit Housing Present Land Use	Change in Land Use
	Built up: 🔀 Over 75% 🔲 25-75% 🔲 Under 2	Commonant   -	Not Likely
Iz	Growth rate: 🗌 Rapid 🔯 Stable 🔲 Słow	☑ Owner \$(000) (yrs) 2-4 Unit 10 % 0	☑ Likely * 🔲 In Process *
ΙĔ	Property values: 🔲 Increasing 🛛 Stable 🔲 Declinin	g Tenant 500 Low 0 Multi-Unit 5% *	To: Residential to
CRIT	🔁 Demand/supply: 🗌 Shortage 🏻 🔀 In Balance 🔲 Over Su		viunicipal.
IO	0	flos. Vacant (>5%) 950 Pred 86 Park/School 10 %	
H	🖁 Market Area Boundaries, Description, and Market Conditions (inclu		nded by the cities of
		ton and the town of Brookline to the east, Boston and the towns o	of Needham and
AREA	Wellesley to the south, and Waltham, Wellesley and	the town of Weston to the west. See Comment Addendum for ad	
2	discussion. At present, MLS reports 102 active offer	ngs. List prices range from \$560,000 to \$10,500,000. Median list	price is \$1,735,000.
Ä	Unity three nomes are priced below \$609,000 and of	thy two houses are listed in excess of \$4,500,000. Of the active list	
MAR	oners with contingencies, There are 37 properties pro-	ending for sale. Median asking price was \$1,349,000. Conventions in the form of price reductions. Prices are relatively stable at this	
	at tow litterest fates, delief concessions are typically	in the form of price reductions, Prices are relatively stable at this	une.
88	<u> </u>		
Ö	Dimensions: Refer to Attached Deed	Site Area: 4,300 sf	
	Zoning Classification: Multi Residence 1	Description: 10,000 SF Minimum/ 80	0' Frontage
		Zoning Compliance: Legal  Legal nonconforming (grandfathered)	☐ Illegal ☐ No zoning
	Are CC&Rs applicable? 🔲 Yes 🔀 No 🔲 Unknown 🗀 Ha	/e the documents been reviewed? 🔲 Yes 🔲 No 🛮 Ground Rent (if applicable	) \$ /
	Highest & Best Use as improved: 🔲 Present use, or 🔀 Oti	er use (explain) New Home	
	1. 10		•
	Actual Use as of Effective Date: Single-Family Residence		
S		s as currently utilized. Lot size is insufficient to take advantage of	Multi-Residence
ESCRIPTIO	ZORING.		
굕	Utilities Public Other Provider/Description Off-site	Improvements Type Public Private Topography Level	
š	Electricity		Average
ED	Gas 🔀 📙 <u>Eversource</u> Curb/Gu	iter Granite 🛛 🔲 Shape Rectan	
Η.	yvater ⊠ <u>City</u> Sidewal		s Adequate
S	City Oliset 1	ghts Overhead 🛛 🖾 🔲 View Resid.//	School
	Storm Sewer 🛛 🔲 City Alley	None	
	Other site elements; 🔯 inside Lot 🔲 Corner Lot 🔲 Cui d FEMA Spec'l Flood Hazard Area 🔲 Yes 🔀 No FEMA Flood Zo	Sac Underground Utilities Other (describe)	day Dala a data a ca
	Site Comments: See Comment Addendum	ne X FEMA Map # 25017C0552E FEMA N	Aap Date 6/4/2010
9)88	Ode Collinent / Addesidan		
1	General Description Exterior Description	Foundation Basement None	Heating
		ncrete Slab None Area Sq. Ft. 875	Туре <u>Steam</u>
8		rdi Plank Crawi Space Partial % Finished 0	Fuel <u>Gas</u>
		phait Shingle Basement Predominant Ceiling Wood Joists	
	Design (Style) Colonial Guiters & Dwnspts. An		
		uble Hung Dampness Floor Concrete  Settlement None Noted Outside Entry Walkout	Central <u>No</u> Other 3 Mini-Splits
į	Effective Age (Yrs.) 12 Condition Go	od Infestation None Noted Finish Minimal Fin.	Other <u>3 Mini-Splits</u>
y	Interior Description Appliances A		Storage None
111	Floors Hardwood Refrigerator S		rage # of cars ( 4 Tot.)
잁	Walls Plaster Range/Oven ⊠ D	rop Stair 🔀 Patio At	tach.
H	Trim/Finish Wood Disposal 🛛 S	cuttle Deck Rear Deck	etach.
Ш	Bath Floor <u>Linoleum</u> Dishwasher 🔀 D	porway Porch BI	tIn
E	Bath Wainscot Tile Fan/Hood F		port
P	Doors <u>Wood</u> Microwave ⊠ H		veway 4
۶	Condition Good Washer/Dryer F		Irface Paved Asphalt
1	Finished area above grade contains: 7 Rooms		ross Living Area Above Grade
분	Additional features: Wired for Alarm, Recessed Lights Mini-Split AC Units; Renovation and Addition in 2012	Granite Counters, Stainless Steel Appliances, Ceiling Fans, Decl	k, rirepiace, 3
DESCRI	Describe the condition of the property (including physical, functional	and external obsolescence): See Comment Addendum.	
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#### APPRAISAL OF



a single family home...

#### LOCATED AT:

23 Parkview Ave Newton, MA 02460

#### CLIENT:

Daphne and Alan Potter 23 Parkview Ave Newton, MA 02460

#### AS OF:

January 21, 2016

BY:

Christine Zitso Jaques

#### CZJ APPRAISAL SERVICES

File No. 23Parkview

Daphne and Alan Potter

Daphne and Afan Potter 23 Parkview Ave Newton, MA 02460

File Number: 23Parkview

Dear Daphne and Alan,

In accordance with your request, I have appraised the real property at:

23 Parkview Ave Newton, MA 02460

The purpose of this appraisal is to develop an opinion of the defined value of the subject property, as improved. The property rights appraised are the fee simple interest in the site and improvements.

in my opinion, the defined value of the property as of January 21, 2016

is:

\$970,000 Nine Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars

The attached report contains the description, analysis and supportive data for the conclusions, final opinion of value, descriptive photographs, assignment conditions and appropriate certifications.

THANK YOU!

Christine Zitso Jaques

## Summary Residential Appraisal Report

File No. 23Parkview

	The purpose of this appraisa				laton of the e						the apprais	af.		
띯	Cilent NamelIntended User Cilent Address 23 Park		an Potter				naii daphne.p ∕ Newton	otter@	gmaii.		tate MA	Zin O	2460	
SOURING	Additional Intended User(s)		/							-				
굺	Intended Use market va	duation for prop	oced cole	of the b	ame to th	an nitu f	or cohool ov	nancio	<u> </u>					
	intended USE ITTALKET VA	iluation for propi	useu sale	s Of the Ix	OHIS (O II	se city i	or sound ex	parisio	11					
	Property Address 23 Par					City	Newton				tate MA		2460	
뎚	Owner of Public Record Da Legal Description Book 3		n Potter				*				ounty Mic	dlesex		
SUBJECT	Assessor's Parcel # S:22					Tax	Year 2015			R	.E. Taxes	6,327.00		
C)	Neighborhood Name New Property Rights Appraised	Towns - Towns		مع ال			Reference MS	A 1570	64	C	ensus Trac	t 3734.00		
	My research did X		Leaseho		her (describe subject prop		three years prior	to the eff	eclive date	e of this apprais	 3l.			
	Prior Sale/Transfer: Date	e		Price		Sou	rce(s) Middle	sex Re	gistry o	of Deeds				
	Analysis of prior sale or trans the prior three years	• •	ect property (a	and compara	ible sales, if	applicable)	as of the	effectiv	e date	of this valu	ation, ti	nere were	no sales	<u>3 in</u>
ž	the prior tilled years													
SALES HISTORY														
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	Offerings, options and contra	icts as of the effective o	date of the ap	opraisal <u>N</u>	ione note	ed as of	the day effe	ctive d	ate of t	nis report				
	7	Characteristics					ng Trends			One-Unit Ho		ļ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Land Use 9	
		Suburban Rura 25-75% Und		operty Value: mand/Suppl			Stable In Balance	Dectir	oing Supply	PRICE \$(000)	AGE (yrs)	One-Unit 2-4 Unit		90 % 1 %
		Stable Slow		rketing Time				Over		580 Lew	1	Multi-Family		0 %
8	Neighborhood Boundaries				the sout	h by Co	mm Ave, to	the ea	st by	3,800 High		Commercial		1 %
	Newton Corner and Neighborhood Description				cuburhan	town o	f Nowton in	in area	know	1,225 Pred		Other COTH		8 % f
	the neighborhood is													
H	and shopping distric			and proxi	mity is a	so exce	ilent and ve	ry stab	le. The	area is ma	ade up d	of many si	milar sty	le
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	often under a week ,the	* -												
	units a month across the												nultiple of	ffers
8	on homes like the subje Dimensions see attache		on the mar	rket . This o Area 430		ported b		market rectan	_	ns statement		rkfile. eighborho	od/Park	
ı	Specific Zoning Classification	MR1		Zoning De	escription 7,		AINIMUM LO			MENT	V.017 1 .	o.gricoc		
	Zoning Compliance L	<del></del>						·		Yes No	KN de	-0-		
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7	Electricity (X) Gas (X)	<u></u>		Water Sanitary Se		X) X)				Street PAVE Alley None	D		XI	<del>  </del>
	Site Comments site is le	evel and abuts t	he Cabot				building on	one sid			area at	the back)	. The fro	ont
	faces the Cabot Play													
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î	Floor	Scuttle	Cooling		Air Condition		X Patio/Deck			none	Carp			
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	Additional Features house													
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Ŀ	addition of a master	bath, renovated	family ba	ath and la	av, new v	vindows	, new roof, r	new ga	s firepl	ace insert,	updated	l wiring an	d	
	plumbing, new exteri										nstalled	mini split	ductless	<u>-</u>
ŀ	ac units to cool the h	ome. There wa	ș no evid	ence of e	excessive	wear a	ind tear on t	ne day	or insp	ection.				=
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#### CITY OF NEWTON

#### IN CITY COUNCIL

2016

# ORDER OF TAKING FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES 23 PARKVIEW AVENUE

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the City Council the public necessity and convenience require the acquisition by eminent domain of the parcel of land, together with improvements thereon, known as 23 Parkview Avenue ("the Parcel"); and

WHEREAS, the Parcel consists of approximately 4,300 square feet with buildings thereon, as described in a deed dated August 29, 2002 and recorded on August 30, 2002, with Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, at Book 36268 Page 454; and

WHEREAS, the City has authorized and received an independent professional appraisal of the value of the Parcel; and

THEREFORE, by vote of the City Council, acting on behalf of the City of Newton under General Laws Chapter 79 of the Massachusetts General Laws, it is hereby

ORDERED: That the Parcel be and hereby is taken in fee, together with all rights, title and interest in the Parcel. So far as is known to the Council, the owner and mortgagee for the Parcel are as follows:

Record Owner: Alan Potter and Daphne Potter

Bk 36268 Pg 454

Mortgagee: MSA Mortgage, LLC

Bk 59461 Pg 560

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 79, it is further

ORDERED: That the award of damages in the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) is hereby made as a result of this eminent domain taking, to be paid to the persons entitled thereto; and it is further

ORDERED: That in accordance with General Laws Chapter 79 Section 1, the trees upon and structures affixed to said Parcel are hereby included as part of this taking; and it is further

ORDERED: That the Parcel is taken for school use; and that custody and management of the Parcel is hereby assigned to the Newton Public Schools.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk (SGD) SETTI D. WARREN Mayor

Date:
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#### **CITY OF NEWTON**

#### **IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole through its Chair Ruthanne Fuller, the Mayor is authorized to enter into an agreement with the owner of real property located at 23 Parkview Avenue to pay damages up to a maximum amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the taking of the real property located at 23 Parkview Avenue which damages include relocation costs payable to said owner pursuant to G.L. c. 79A

AND

That for purposes of paying the costs of acquiring 23 Parkview Avenue and all other costs associated with the foregoing, there is hereby appropriated the sum of one million and ten thousand dollars (\$1,010,000), which amount shall be borrowed under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the Massachusetts General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

(SGD)	SETTIL	). W	<u>/ARRE</u>	:N
	Mayo	r		

Date:			