

Dear Councilors,

It is common knowledge that there is a housing shortage in Massachusetts. Our workforce has to be able to afford to live or we risk pricing our economy into a place where our growth stalls. It's just common sense: if it becomes too expensive to live in our state - or, more specifically, the city of Newton - we cannot grow. An increase in rental housing options will attract people to live and work in the city of Newton who would have been excluded otherwise.

Most importantly, the greatest scarcity in housing in our state is in affordable housing options for working families. A robust economy, with many jobs available at different wages, needs to have the infrastructure behind it to maintain growth. Like better public transportation, affordable housing must be a cornerstone in any strategy that seeks to provide this vital infrastructure. Massachusetts, the City of Boston, and other municipalities are adopting innovative policies to fast-track and incentivize the creation of more affordable housing. Likewise, Newton has an obligation to play a leading role on this front.

I believe it is the responsibility of the City of Newton to take advantage of the opportunity presented by Northland to provide stable, affordable housing in one of the most expensive communities in the state. Approximately 120 units in their proposal will be offered as income-restricted affordable apartments and we need those units desperately. If Newton is going to be a diverse community into the future, we must take this issue seriously and take bold action. I have faith that the City Council will do just that.



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