

TO: The Newton City Council  
Newton City Hall (1000 Comm. Ave., Newton)  
RE: Northland's Proposal for Needham Street

Councilors,

Development is a very salient issue in our city these days, as it should be. Newton (and the Boston area more generally) needs a whole lot more housing to keep up with the ever increasing demand that has come to dominate our local housing market . As like in any business, different firms are working hard to build new housing supply to keep up with that soaring (and expensive) demand.

One such proposal in Newton Upper Falls is especially appealing to me. Northland Investment Corp. seems to be really rolling out the red carpet in terms of community benefits with their plan to build on Needham Street. This project would include a huge amount of new affordable housing, walkable green-space, new retail and office space, and offers a unique placemaking opportunity in an underutilized lot that desperately needs some sprucing up. Northland is a locally owned and operated real estate development firm with years of experience building all over the country. They seem to be very sensible and in this for the long haul. It's good to know that such an important development is being helmed by a thoughtful, local team.

No matter how you cut it, we need new housing. And it has to go somewhere. I think this spot is an ideal location for a new, mixed-use development that is taking great strides to integrate with the neighborhood at large and offer something really special. I hope the members of the Newton City Council will agree.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Betzalel', with a stylized, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Ben Betzalel  
514 Parker Street