

Dear Newton City Councilors,

I believe Newton needs to embrace more smart-growth development opportunities that emphasize the importance of transit-orientation, sustainable building standards, and a diverse mix of housing options, including new affordable housing apartments.

Local real estate firm Northland is looking to build a development just like this in the Upper Falls and I think it looks like a great project. It seems like they are going above and beyond to meet the criteria outlined above: they will have a privately-owned and operated “Mobility Hub”, which will provide public shuttle bus service for nearby residents and workers. They are committed to meeting the standards of LEED for Neighborhood Development, which will ensure sustainable and environmentally friendly design and building principles throughout the development. Finally, with approximately eight hundred rental apartments, Newton’s inclusionary zoning ordinance will mandate that one hundred and twenty of these apartments will be reserved with affordable rents for those working and middle class neighbors we all know are struggling with increasing housing costs in Newton.

This project appears to have it all. I commend the developer for putting forward a thoughtful proposal that will result in one of the best examples of smart-growth development in our entire state. I believe the Newton City Council should move quickly to allow demolition and construction at this site ASAP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bhargavi Thaduri', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bhargavi Thaduri
9 Considine Road
Newton (Oak Hill Park), MA 02459