

Newton City Council
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Councilors,

There is a lot of conversation happening across the city about building – whether tied to specific new projects or the city wide rezoning or visioning plans for certain areas of the city. This is all positive; Newton is a city and ever changing, it's important that we have robust dialogue around important issues.

What I hope is that talking about these issues doesn't slow us down in doing something about the cost of housing in Newton, the lack of diverse housing choices and the benefit of taking empty our underused spaces and using them to solve this challenge. Though this may create other issues that must be addressed – such as traffic and schools – facts show that these issues are significantly less impactful than the standard large project naysayer would have you believe. I think this is especially true of Northland's project, where the developer is spending significant time and resources to mitigate for traffic impacts via their mobility hub and a site design that encourages walkability, bicycle use, and other alternate modes of transportation.

We are at risk of becoming a homogenous city without more attention to increasing available housing. Making sure we have options that are diverse in style (apartments and not just single-family homes), location (transit accessible and near walkable amenities) and price is important to our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Pansius', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Pansius
6 Carthay Circle, Apt. 2
Newton, MA 02461