

Newton City Council
ATTN: The Land Use Committee
RE: Needham Street Redevelopment
1000 Commonwealth Drive
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I am a strong proponent of affordable housing and on that basis alone I think the Needham Street development by Northland merits the support of the council. This multi-use development will provide 120 affordable housing units in the Upper Falls/Oak Hill area, making it the largest injection of affordable housing in Newton's history.

Regardless of the community, every city needs to make affordable housing options available to the working poor and middle class. It is only through offering to those with less some of the resources available to those with more that our society can take steps to improve upon the current dire situation faced by too many neighbors. Providing quality and affordable housing is one of the most important of those resources. It is vital that we take steps with the utmost haste to make sure that our home - the City of Newton - takes advantage of every opportunity to alleviate this unjust burden on our most vulnerable citizens. This affordable housing opportunity provided by Northland is one we should welcome with open arms.

Though I would ask you to approve this development based on its affordable housing options alone, I do want to highlight the steps Northland has taken to assure this housing development will be LEED certified and will offer affordable and environmentally sustainable travel and commute options through its mobility hub and bike and walking-friendly design. It seems to me that Northland has thought through the needs of the development's residents as well as the city at large and made plans that will make dignified living accessible to all who choose to take advantage.

Thank you for your time,



Brittany Sipos
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Newton Upper Falls