

Newton City Council
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

The average home price in Newton is currently just shy of \$1 million dollars. The average rent about \$4,000 a month, which for many in the middle class, is an entire year of salary. Wages have been stagnant for quite some time and the cost of living increases year after year. The middle and working class in Newton are feeling the crunch more and more every day. Something needs to be done to reduce the cost of housing in Newton. Boston has been dealing with a similar issue and has pledged to building 185,000 housing units by 2030 as a way to slow the rising costs of living. They are well on their way to hitting their goal. Newton should be reacting in a similar way to address its housing crisis.

Supporting development projects offering large quantities of affordable housing is a good start. Northland Investment Corporation is planning to do just that in the Upper Falls on Needham Street. They will be constructing a beautiful mixed use development on the site of the Marshalls Plaza. It will include 800 housing units in total, of which 120 are affordable. This is exactly what our City needs. A larger housing supply and more affordability. I hope this project becomes a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James H. Withall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

James H. Withall
6 Agawam Rd.
Waban, MA 02468