

Members of the Newton City Council:

I hope the council will vote in favor of Northland's proposed multi-use development on the corner of Needham and Oak Street in the area of the Marshalls shopping plaza, the Saco-Pettee Mill, and the old Clarks shoe factory.

I have learned recently that the Needham Street development will include the largest allotment of affordable housing units for a single development (over 120 units) in Newton's history. It is no secret that housing prices have been skyrocketing in suburban Boston communities in the past few years, and Newton is no exception. It is my opinion that the exorbitant housing prices in Newton are now locking out young people of diverse backgrounds from injecting some much-needed diversity and vitality to the city. We have a responsibility to seek the health of our city by promoting and actively seeking-out initiatives that bring people of diverse backgrounds into our community.

Northland has wisely opted to include a mobility hub that will provide public transportation to Boston, Cambridge and other points in Newton for residents of the development as well as neighbors in the Upper Falls, Oak Hill, the Highlands, and Waban. This aspect pairs well with the affordable housing option, providing options apart from fiscally and environmentally expensive car travel for commuting and community errands. Both the affordable housing and the mobility hub are being provided, I would guess, at great expense to Northland, and I appreciate their orientation toward accessible, sustainable housing.

I am proud to be a resident of a progressive city that desires to back up its forward thinking with forward action. Please vote in favor of Northland's Needham Street development and make sure Newton is accessible individuals and families of all backgrounds.

Thank you for your leadership,



Rajender Dudani

Waban