

From: Jason Forney
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 12:39 PM
To: Claire Ricker
Subject: MBTA Communities Zoning Proposal

Good morning, Ms Ricker and members of the Arlington Redevelopment Board:

As a 15 year resident of Arlington Heights, I am writing in support of the changes to the zoning by-laws proposed by the MBTA Communities Working Group and outlined in their comprehensive and clear report.

I believe that Arlington should play a role in the regional housing shortage. Creating more places for people to live in Arlington will improve our community and bring new voices and points of view to the conversation. It is prohibitively expensive for young people to live in our town, and increasing housing stock can be a part of a solution to that problem.

A town that is 6 miles, center to center, from Boston and part of a major metropolitan area should certainly have zoning that allows for multi-family housing as-of-right. Locating new housing on major corridors and near public transit is logical, sensible and good planning. I applaud the incentives for ground floor activation and feel that the proposed building heights are appropriate.

I appreciate the broader community engagement that was a part of this work. That input, along with the input gathered for the Housing Action plan from 2021 shows a considerable majority support for an increase in housing production, and a vision of Arlington as a forward-looking, dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable community. I ask that the ARB give that considerable weight in your decision making.

Thank you,

Jason Forney
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