

["Thank you for supporting affordable housing in Newton," email sent 6/3/20, 12:15pm]

Dear Mayor Fuller,

We would like to thank you for signing the June 1 [Affordable Rental Housing A.C.T.I.O.N. letter](#) from 67 U.S. mayors urging Congressional leaders to include support for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit in the next coronavirus response package. This letter states:

While rental assistance is critical for keeping renters in their homes during this time of financial instability, cities and towns also need to build more affordable housing. Stable, safe, affordable housing is imperative for public health and safety during a pandemic... [and] will be in greater demand given the economic downturn.

We appreciate that you and Boston's Marty Walsh were the only two Massachusetts mayors to sign.

Of course, there are other ways in which you have publicly demonstrated your keen understanding of the urgent regional and national need to create more affordable housing in communities of opportunity like Newton.

In your [recent newsletter](#), you reflect on Sunday's rally for justice for George Floyd. You speak of "how the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the tragedy of economic, health and housing disparities and of the crucial work to combat racism still ahead of us in Newton." You vow to work with City leaders, including affordable housing advocates, to realize the hope that Newton might "become the truly welcoming, equitable and inclusive community to which we aspire."

Your [support for the Northland project](#) was critical. As you said, it includes "desperately needed apartments (140 of them) for people on tight incomes. Those affordable apartments... will allow us to welcome to Newton so many people that are often excluded because of the high cost of our housing."

In 2018, you joined the [Metro Mayors Coalition](#). With 14 other Boston-area leaders, you committed to creating 185,000 new homes by 2030, to correct for chronic undersupply and to meet projected demand resulting from job growth and the changing needs of existing residents, including retiring seniors.

You understand the history that led to this moment of mourning for lives lost to disease, inequity, and systemic racism. You understand the segregationist roots of our housing shortage. We believe you also see the momentous opportunity that Zoning Redesign affords us, to finally undertake the work that should have been accomplished in the 52 years since the passage of the Fair Housing Act. We hope you will lend your full support to [Engine 6's proposals](#) for reforming the ordinance.

Thank you, again, for your leadership. We look forward to working with you and the City Council toward a Newton that is truly welcoming and sustainable.

Sincerely,

Fran Godine, Doris Ann Sweet, Lynn Weissberg, Nancy Zollers
Engine 6 Leadership Team

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