

Charles River Community Health

Daria Gere, Executive Director
Waltham Alliance for Teaching, Community Organizing & Housing (WATCH CDC)
24 Crescent St., Suite 201
Waltham, MA 02453

Dear Ms. Gere:

On behalf of Charles River Community Health (CRCH), it is with great pleasure that I offer this letter of support for the WATCH CDC's Proposal for a Deed Restriction Buy-Down, submitted to Waltham's Community Preservation Committee.

The mission of CRCH is to improve the health and well-being of the communities of Allston, Brighton, Waltham and surrounding areas by providing quality, comprehensive, coordinated care that is patient-centered, family friendly, and community focused. CRCH is a full-service, freestanding, independent federally qualified health center (FQHC) in Allston-Brighton and Waltham, offering medical, dental, behavioral health, and vision services as well as on-site pharmacy and selected specialties.

Both CRCH and WATCH CDC work to serve the Waltham community, focusing on the underserved. Affordable housing in Waltham is a problem that directly affects our low-income patients and families, as 57% of our patient population have incomes at or below the poverty line. Additionally, in 2018, 570 of our patients identified as homeless or living in a shelter. We believe in the importance of addressing the social determinants of health that directly impact our patients' health, and housing is a crucial issue that can adversely affect someone's ability to lead a healthy life.

WATCH CDC's proposal will support the Waltham community by making apartments more affordable for low-income families. This is in line with the mission, vision, and values of CRCH by improving the wellbeing for Waltham residents. Therefore, CRCH offers full support in WATCH CDC's Proposal for a Deed Restriction Buy-Down.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Browne, Executive Director