



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

RECEIVED
2022 OCT 31 PM 3:08
City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

CITY CLERK
OCT 31 2022

#489-22

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

Telefax
(617) 796-1113

TDD
(617) 796-1089

E-mail
rfuller@newtonma.gov

October 31, 2022

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting the amendment of Zoning Ordinances to allow animal service establishments by right in BU1 and BU2 zones.

In 2012, a zoning amendment created a definition for “animal service” establishments and, without a rationale, omitted the use in BU1, BU2, BU3, and BU4 zones. This has caused ISD to prohibit new dog grooming businesses from opening. Six existing animal grooming businesses—now non-conforming—operate in BU1 and BU2 zones in Auburndale, Newton Center, Newton Highlands, Newtonville, and Waban.

Given the erosion of retail business and the growth of personal service and service establishments in village centers and the nature of this type of business, enabling animal services in business zones BU1 and BU2 will be good for Newton.

On Tuesday, October 11, 2022, the Economic Development Commission voted 9-0 to support a request for the creation of as-of-right zoning for animal service.

A memo from Director of Economic Development John Sisson is attached.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor