

Leslie Burg
3/27/07

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS: The City of Newton has been vigilant in its efforts to protect its citizens from the risks of classified and dangerous research; and
- WHEREAS: Boston University is planning to build a BioSafety Level 4 laboratory in a densely populated area of Boston that may involve secret, bioweapons research on incurable diseases such as ebola and other hemorrhagic fevers; and
- WHEREAS: The dangers involved in this laboratory could disastrously affect residents in Newton, as well as residents of the immediately adjacent Roxbury/South End neighborhood, through the accidental release of deadly air-borne substances; contact with infected laboratory workers who reside in our community; or the laboratory becoming the target of a terrorist attack; and
- WHEREAS: State Superior Court Judge Gants has vacated the Final Environmental Impact Review of the BSL4 laboratory by Boston University finding it “arbitrary and capricious” and ordered that additional environmental reviews be carried out to provide an adequate analysis of ‘worst case scenarios” and the comparative risks of placing the lab in an alternative, less populated, site; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Newton, by letter of November 3, 2004, had requested further environmental impact review by the MA Secretary of Environmental Affairs; and
- WHEREAS: Boston University and the National Institutes of Health, in response to a motion for a preliminary injunction, committed themselves to developing a plan to improve community input and involvement, including in respect to DNA research protocols and limitations on such work; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Newton Board of Aldermen contact the Director of the National Institutes of Health and urge a halt to the construction of the level 4 bio laboratory at Boston University until the successful completion of all required environmental impact reviews; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Board of Aldermen is in principle opposed to the construction of BSL4 laboratories in densely populated areas; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That any public hearing required for the purpose of providing

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information about the proposed laboratory include sufficient notice and opportunity for Newton residents to be heard.

RESOLVED: That the Newton Board of Aldermen notify the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, Governor Deval Patrick, Congressman Barney Frank, Senators Kennedy and Kerry, the Massachusetts congressional delegation, its state legislative delegation, Mayor Menino and the Boston City Council of the above actions.