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Just A Start Acquires Key Porter Square Sites for Affordable Housing Development *New acquisition supported by the City of Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust*

Cambridge, MA — December 2, 2024 — [Just A Start](#), a community development corporation dedicated to advancing economic stability through affordable housing and comprehensive support services, has acquired two parking lots at 1826 and 1840 Massachusetts Avenue in Porter Square, Cambridge, from Lesley University for \$10.5 million. The acquisition, financed by the [City of Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust](#), addresses the city’s critical need for affordable housing.

Located near the Porter Square MBTA station and surrounded by shops and amenities, the properties are ideally situated for redevelopment. While planning is just beginning, Just A Start envisions creating affordable housing with ground-floor retail. The organization is committed to a transparent and inclusive community engagement process to gather input and ideas from neighbors and local stakeholders.

“This acquisition offers a rare opportunity to bring affordable housing to a prime location, strengthening Cambridge’s diverse and equitable community,” said **Carl Nagy-Koechlin, Executive Director at Just A Start**. “With the input and collaboration of neighbors, we look forward to creating a development that reflects shared values and addresses urgent housing needs.”

This investment underscores the City’s commitment to ensuring that quality, affordable housing is accessible in even the most sought-after areas of the city. The sale is part of Lesley University’s broader efforts to support community development while strengthening its long-term operations. Just A Start is proud to partner with an institution that shares its vision for an inclusive Cambridge.

With over 600 affordable apartments already under management and Resident Services Coordinators dedicated to supporting its 1,500 residents, Just A Start is uniquely positioned to bring a high-quality and community-focused development to Porter Square. Details about upcoming community meetings and planning processes will be announced in the coming months.

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About Just A Start:

Just A Start believes that access to stable housing and sustainable careers are the essential building blocks of equitable communities. For more than 50 years, we have focused on meeting the fundamental needs of individuals and families who have been systematically denied opportunities to realize their full potential. Our programs include affordable housing, education and job training, and comprehensive support services, spanning Cambridge and beyond. We have developed and currently maintain 600 affordable apartments. To keep community members housed, we also offer financial and technical assistance to prevent evictions, and support low- and moderate-income homeowners. Finally, we prepare individuals of all ages and circumstances with the skills and knowledge they need to secure fulfilling careers, leveraging their talents to achieve economic mobility and strengthen the region’s workforce.