Housing Insecurity in Waltham: Building Understanding

Now what? How can we put our words into action and help ensure that housing is available and affordable to all? The following is a list of actions you can take and organizations you can become involved with.

I. Organizations
Waltham Community Day Center, http://communitydaycenter.org/
Mission: support homeless individuals and those in need to shape and meet their life goals.

WATCH CDC, http://watchcdc.org
Mission: works towards a more just community in the Waltham area by promoting affordable housing, providing adult education and leadership development, and empowering underrepresented residents through civic engagement.

Mission: offers volunteer programs that address homelessness and poverty in the Greater Boston Area.

Habitat for Humanity, http://www.habitat.org/
Mission: Providing people with simple, decent, affordable housing while bringing together communities.
Local affiliates: Greater Boston (http://www.habitatboston.org/), North Shore (http://www.habitatforhumanity-northshore.com/)

II. Actions
1. Call your elected representatives: local, state, and national. To find how to reach them, visit https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials
2. Volunteer with any of the above organizations. For more information, visit their websites.
3. Participate in advocacy work: door-to-door canvassing, flyering, registering voters.
4. Intern with any of the above organizations.
5. Participate in Legislative Action Day, on 2/27. See https://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy/item/2017-legislative-action-day for more details.

III. Resources
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, http://mahomeless.org/
What: Participates in advocacy and educational outreach to eradicate homelessness from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), https://www.chapa.org/
What: to encourage the production and preservation of housing that is affordable to low and moderate income families and individuals and to foster diverse and sustainable communities through planning and community development.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), http://www.mapc.org/
What: Regional agency that works to promote smart growth and regional collaboration in the 101 towns and cities of Metropolitan Boston.