



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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Director Brian Golden
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

May 3, 2016

Dear Director Golden,

Thank you for the series of productive meetings that the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) has had with the City Council throughout the Urban Renewal extension process. We very much appreciate your willingness to work more closely with us and to be more transparent with the Council and with the residents of Boston.

Per our agreement of March 23, 2016, the City Council approved a six-year extension to fourteen Urban Renewal Zones, with a number of provisos and procedural changes going forward. One such proviso was the BRA's agreement to appear at a review hearing twice per year to report on progress and planned urban renewal activities. In order to help prepare for a productive discussion, this letter addresses the Council's expectations for the first meeting, which we would like to schedule for September 2016.

As you know, the BRA Urban Renewal extension process uncovered a number of community concerns about Boston's overall need for urban renewal, its overuse in the past, its appropriateness in currently delineated zones, and its absence from other parts of the city. We look forward to focusing on the following topics at our first review hearing:

- 1. Progress on Land Disposition Agreement (LDA) Inventory:** We request an overall plan highlighting steps and milestones to complete the inventory according to the BRA's two-year action plan, as well as a specific update on what has been completed to date, including rough percentages of inventory completion in each Urban Renewal Zone, and finally a projection of progress to be made by the next biannual review hearing.
- 2. Process for Reviewing Urban Renewal Map Boundaries:** We request a plan for the review of each Urban Renewal Zone's map that includes the timeline for completion of each individual review, as well as a review of the contents of each Urban Renewal zone and a projection of progress to be made by the next biannual review hearing.
- 3. Overview of Urban Renewal Projects Pipeline:** Given that the Council will be more involved in proposed minor modifications, we would like to understand the development context within Urban Renewal zones. We request a summary of all projects that have progressed over the last six months or are soon likely to progress (from "LOI" to "Review")

to “Board Approval”); the status of major projects under construction; and the status of the public availability of data on projects in the pipeline. We anticipate having a conversation about the successes of metrics used to review projects, including public process, internal review, mitigation packages, and benefits for infrastructure.

The Council fully supports the Mayor’s and the BRA’s efforts to renew and reform the BRA, making it a more transparent and resident-friendly organization. The completion of external audits and the publication of these findings are an important testament to your efforts. To that end, the Council also will all expect to discuss, during each six-month review, an update on the BRA’s progress on its various reform and transparency efforts, and we look forward to helping you mark your progress during these reviews.

Our goal in outlining these expectations is to help us maintain the open and candid communication we have enjoyed during the extension process. We look forward to working more closely together over the next six years and beyond. Thank you again for your time and partnership.

Sincerely,



Bill Linehan
District 2 Boston City Councilor
Chair, Planning & Development Committee



Michelle Wu
Boston City Councilor At-Large
Boston City Council President

- Cc: Mayor Martin J. Walsh
Councilor Sal LaMattina, District 1
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Councilor Timothy P. McCarthy, District 5
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Councilor Michael Flaherty, At-Large
Councilor Ayanna Pressley, At-Large