



# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

**AARON MICHLEWITZ**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
3<sup>RD</sup> SUFFOLK DISTRICT

Chair  
Public Service

ROOM 156, STATE HOUSE  
TEL: (617) 722-2240

July 11, 2013

Peter Meade  
Director & Chief Economic Development Office  
Boston Redevelopment Authority  
Attention: John Fitzgerald, Senior Project Manager  
One City Hall Square, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02201

RE: Redevelopment of the Government Center Garage

Dear Mr. Meade,

In a community where we are tirelessly looking to grow, strengthen and improve, it remains evident that our construction projects of yesterday have impaired our growth and development into the future. The Government Center Garage, erected in the 1960's serves as a key example of construction ultimately creating an unnecessary barrier that has stunted the growth of the communities which surround it. With an opportunity to confront and address the impacts of this preexisting structure, it is crucial that we as surrounding community members join together in embracing constructively the replacement and development of this parcel.

While I'm delighted to see The HYM Investment Group's diligent efforts to address the defects of the proposal submitted eight years ago and I support the project going forward; I subsequently must express concern regarding the open community process, which has been articulated to my office by an overwhelming number of constituents and members of the community concerned about the lack of transparency. The transitioning of this garage into a mixed use project including new residential, commercial and retail opportunities has the potential to enhance economic vitality and stability while closing the preexisting dead space. While I have the ability to see the immense potential this project possesses, I would respectfully request that we offer the utmost inclusive process with the hopes of navigating towards complete community support.

I would request that we continue to facilitate the dialogue concerning issues such as traffic, parking, infrastructure, open space, shadow and wind impacts and most importantly, the impacts to the residents' quality of life, both during construction and after the project has been completed.

Additionally, I would like to suggest that a portion of this project be allotted towards student residences for a local university. With space at a premium in downtown Boston and the direct need for more student housing, it is imperative that any project of this size fully examine the demand to address this serious issue that has continued to grow in our neighborhoods. With a steady influx of students eager to move in, we are currently unable to accommodate the demand.

In close, I would like to thank you and your staff for embarking on this ever evolving project. I am eager to continue the conversation and look forward to the development of this revitalization. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Michlewitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**AARON MICHLEWITZ**

State Representative

Third Suffolk District