

January 17, 2018

Dear Ms. Delgreco, et al.,

Thank you for your recent letter concerning planning for the North End Waterfront; it is very encouraging to hear of the collaboration and consensus of the various property owners and residents on shared goals for this waterfront neighborhood.

The last thorough planning analysis for the North End Waterfront was done in the late 1980s with the completion of the Harborpark Municipal Harbor Plan and the adoption of Boston Zoning Article 42A Harborpark. These plans anticipated and guided transformative improvements to the North End Waterfront, including the transformation of Battery Wharf into a mixed-use development with generous public access and other public amenities, the expansion and rehabilitation of the Pilot House and new Harborwalk at Sargent's Wharf, and the Chapter 91 amnesty licensing process that protects and promotes Harborwalk access along properties that predated the Chapter 91 program.

There has been limited recent planning attention for this area of the waterfront as the land use controls and guidelines provided in the Harborpark zoning have been adequate in guiding new projects and promoting public access.

That said, the City has recently launched various citywide plans that highlight all of Boston's neighborhoods, including Imagine Boston 2030, Climate Ready Boston, and Go Boston 2030. The outreach and feedback through the Imagine Boston 2030 planning process well exceeded 14,000 residents who attended community workshops and responded to numerous surveys and questionnaires.

Input received through the Imagine Boston 2030 process has framed citywide opportunities for our waterfront, including creating signature new open spaces; forming networks of connected open spaces and cultural destinations; expanding connections between neighborhoods and the waterfront; strengthening and expanding waterfront housing and job centers; and developing local climate resilience plans to prepare existing and expanded neighborhoods. Climate Ready Boston has created greater public awareness of flood risks due to sea-level rise and established future flooding projections so that the City can guide new developments along the waterfront and also analyze and plan ways to modify our shoreline to prevent flood risks. Development proposals that are subject to Article 37 of the Boston Zoning Code review must also demonstrate how the project will address the risk of forty inches of sea-level rise anticipated by the year 2070.

The flooding that occurred on January 4<sup>th</sup> of this year is a reminder of the City's current vulnerability and what is at risk as the seas continue to rise. While most of this flooding occurred within the current flood plain, it revealed additional negative impacts, including closure of public ways and flooding of public infrastructure.

While there are only a few active projects proposed along the North End Waterfront, some recent activities add context to the North End Waterfront. These include: the completion of Lovejoy Wharf, which allows for expanded Harborwalk connectivity to the North End; Connect Historic Boston; the expansion of the Eliot School at 585 Commercial Street; plans to redesign Langone and Puopolo parks; discussions focused on future plans for the Nazzaro Community Center; and the Department of Environmental Protection's interpretation of existing pile-supported structures and pile fields.

There also remain areas where the Harborwalk is not apparent or accessible to the public and various questions regarding Chapter 91 compliance, including Commercial Wharf. The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) is in the process of surveying the entire Harborwalk to ensure that it is accessible to all of Boston's residents and visitors.

We look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss these plans in more detail; please call my office (617.918.4326) at your convenience to schedule a time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian P. Golden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "G".

Brian P. Golden  
Director