

# MetroBTC

Building & Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District

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Alderperson Ben Ewen-Campen  
28 Warren Ave., Apt. #5  
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Alderperson Ewen-Campen,

Thank you for your continued efforts to monitor this very important conversation in Somerville, MA, concerning the Clarendon Hill project. It is becoming increasingly concerning and disappointing that some involved in this conversation are pitting safe, fair housing against safe, fair jobs. We reject this notion as a false choice, and we object to the April 26, 2018 Memorandum from Cory Milan, Scott Hayman, Greg Bialecki and Paul Mackey.

It is both helpful and disappointing to see the direction the development team(s) are taking with their proposed plans for Clarendon Hill—a much needed project in Somerville. It is helpful in that it restated the applicability of the prevailing wage and competitive bidding laws on at least part of the project, providing ground rules and accountability on how contractors are to bid the project. It is disappointing in that it unmasks the intent of some of the developers of part of the project to pay wages that are substantially below area standards for construction workers employed on the project.

Somerville is a community that should be working for all of us—everyone who lives here and everyone who works here. Somerville's community standards represent fair wages, health care and retirement benefits, safety, training programs, and career pathways that build strong communities and the workforce reflects the community. Diversity is our strength. We are proud of the fact that across the entire Massachusetts construction industry, our union apprenticeship programs train 90% of apprentices who are people of color and 93.5% of apprentices who are women.

We see this false choice presented time and again by developers in the hopes of making windfall profits by pitting one important mission against another. The people of Somerville deserve better. Somerville deserves development and construction practices that respect fair housing and good jobs.

Please support projects that advance community standard wages and benefits, and support the mission of fair jobs and fair housing in Somerville.

Thank you,



Brian Doherty