

Madalyn Letellier

From: Steve Blackman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 5:59 PM
To: Public Comments; Planning Board
Subject: Re: 11 Ward Street
Attachments: 2025-02-24 MagiQ Letter of Support.pdf

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Please see the attached letter of support for the proposed upzoning of 11 Ward Street in Somerville. Thank you!

Steve Blackman
Administrative and Operations Coordinator
MagiQ Technologies
[REDACTED]



February 24, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed upzoning of the property at 11 Ward St., Somerville, MA 02143, currently owned by Dr. Jonah Jacob. As the CEO of MagiQ Technologies Inc., a pioneering research company specializing in fiber optics and quantum computing, I believe this zoning change is in the best interest of the City of Somerville and should be approved in order to maintain the city's place as a hub for transformative technological innovation.

MagiQ has been located in Somerville since 2014, and in that time has grown to employ 15 full-time staff and raised over \$20 million in private capital. We have collaborated with MIT and Harvard to attract over \$1 million in federal research funding through the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program. Currently, we are working with multiple large multinational corporations to develop technological solutions for the green energy, communications and defense sectors.

In that time, Dr. Jacob has been an exceptionally supportive and responsive landlord who understands the needs and challenges of early-stage tech companies. He is committed to working with his tenants to provide high-quality research and development space to allow them to maximize the potential impact of their products.

The proposed upzoning would allow MagiQ to maintain and expand our operations in Somerville as the company grows and scales up hardware production. The upzoning would demonstrate Somerville's commitment to supporting companies that create high-skilled jobs and transformative technological breakthroughs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Berzanskis", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Audrius Berzanskis
CEO

MagiQ Technologies, Inc.
11 Ward St. #300
Somerville, MA 02143



Madalyn Letellier

From: Ravi Tejwani [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 6:01 PM
To: Public Comments; Planning Board
Subject: Support for Upzoning at 11 Ward St, Somerville, MA 02143
Attachments: GentleCare_Letter_Support_Jonah.pdf

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Dear Members of the Somerville Planning Board,

I am writing as the current tenant at Dr. Jonah Jacob's property at 11 Ward St, Somerville, MA 02143. As the President and CEO of GentleCare, I would like to express my support for the proposed upzoning of this property.

Our AI Robotics Startup develops care solutions for the elderly, and we believe this zoning change is crucial for both our company's continued growth in Somerville and the city's development as a hub for innovative technology with social impact.

I have attached a formal letter detailing our specific reasons for supporting this upzoning. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ravi Tejwani
President & CEO
GentleCare
[REDACTED]



Feb 21, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed upzoning of the property at 11 Ward St, Somerville, MA 02143, currently owned by Dr. Jonah Jacob. As the President and CEO of GentleCare, an AI Robotics Startup developing care solutions for the elderly, I believe this zoning change is crucial for both our company's growth and Somerville's continued development as a hub for transformative technology.

GentleCare is currently developing robotic assistance systems that help elderly individuals maintain their independence by supporting them with daily activities such as getting out of bed and bathroom assistance. Our work focuses on creating practical solutions that enhance the quality of life for our aging population.

Our current team consists of six highly skilled engineers, all MIT graduates, and we have plans to expand to 40 employees over the next five years. The property's location, within walking distance of MIT, has been instrumental in attracting top talent and maintaining strong connections with the academic community.

Dr. Jacob has been an exceptionally supportive landlord who understands and believes in our mission to improve the lives of elderly individuals through innovative technology. His commitment to maintaining and improving the property aligns perfectly with our need for high-quality research and development space.

The proposed upzoning would allow us to maintain our presence in Somerville while growing our team and expanding our operations. Without this change, we may be forced to relocate, which would not only disrupt our operations but also potentially remove a growing technology company from the Somerville community.

GentleCare represents exactly the type of company that Somerville should aim to retain: we're developing socially beneficial technology, creating high-skilled jobs, and contributing to the local innovation ecosystem. The upzoning of this property would demonstrate Somerville's commitment to supporting companies that combine technological innovation with social impact.

Sincerely,

Ravi Tejwani
President & CEO, GentleCare
MIT PhD in Robotics

Madalyn Letellier

From: Walker Chan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 11:48 AM
To: Public Comments; Planning Board
Cc: Veronika Stelmakh; Jonah Jacob
Subject: Letter in support of 11 Ward St zoning change
Attachments: Letter of Support for Jonah.pdf

This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.

Hello,

Please find attached a letter expressing our support for the upzoning of 11 Ward St.

Walker



Mesodyne Inc
19 Ward St. • Somerville, MA 02143

Feb 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed upzoning of the property at 11 Ward St, Somerville, MA 02143, currently owned by Dr. Jonah Jacob. As the Cofounder and CEO of Mesodyne, an MIT spin-out, I believe this zoning change is crucial for both our company's growth and Somerville's continued development as a hub for transformative technology.

Mesodyne is developing small, lightweight power generators with no moving parts. Our current team consists of twelve full time employees and we have plans to expand to 25 employees over the next two years. The property's location, within walking distance of MIT and Harvard, has been instrumental in attracting top talent and maintaining strong connections with the academic community.

Dr. Jacob has been an exceptionally supportive landlord who understands and believes in our mission. His commitment to maintaining and improving the property aligns perfectly with our need for high-quality research and development space. The proposed upzoning would allow us to maintain our presence in Somerville while growing our team and expanding our operations. Without this change, we may be forced to relocate, which would not only disrupt our operations but also potentially remove a growing technology company from the Somerville community.

Mesodyne represents exactly the type of company that Somerville should aim to retain: we're developing socially beneficial technology, creating high-skilled jobs, and contributing to the local innovation ecosystem. The upzoning of this property would demonstrate Somerville's commitment to supporting companies that combine technological innovation with social impact.

If you require further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stelmakh".

Veronika Stelmakh, PhD
CEO and Cofounder
Mesodyne

