

Madalyn Letellier

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 7:11 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Ben Ewen-Campen
Subject: Rezoning of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

My name is Ian Naval. I live at [REDACTED] Ward 3. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the rezoning of 295-297 Medford St and 93 Walnut St from Mid-Rise 3 to Mid-Rise 4. I believe in the work being done by the Somerville Community Land Trust, and I am excited to welcome new neighbors to Gilman Square. I drive regularly through Walnut Street abutting the property in question, and I have little to no concerns about impact to traffic.

Best,
ian naval (they/them).

Madalyn Letellier

From: Mike Steele [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 8:40 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Comment from abutter about File 25-0131 (Arts & Innovation sub-area)

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Dear Councilors,

My name is Michael Steele and I own and live at [REDACTED] in Somerville. My house is directly across from the development listed in File 25-0131 (Arts & Innovation sub-area of the Master Planned Development Overlay District)

I urge the city council to make Properzi Way and Tyler Street one-way streets. I propose that Properzi Way is a one-way towards Tyler Street, and Tyler Street is a one-way towards Dane Street. Almost every day, I see cars at a stand still, beeping, backing up, trying to get out, at the intersection of these two streets. It's not a surprise: you can't see who is around the corner. Some cars are using these streets to skip the traffic light at Somerville Avenue and Dane Street. Some cars are trying to visit the businesses in the Somernova buildings. I believe that a new traffic pattern is essential to the development. With the addition of parking in the zoning, there needs to be order. I cannot imagine how 750 cars could get in or out of the Somernova campus via Properzi and Tyler right now. It would be chaos.

I also urge the city council to not hold a vote on the rezoning until a CBA is reached with the Union Square Neighborhood Council.

Thank you,
Michael

Madalyn Letellier

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 8:57 PM
To: Public Comments; Planning Board
Subject: Support for zoning amendment for 297 Medford St site

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

My name is Anne Matthews and I live at [REDACTED] in Somerville in Ward 3. I've lived in Somerville since 1982, and I'm writing to support the application for a zoning map amendment to change 297 Medford St. site's designation from Mid-Rise 3 to Mid-Rise 4. This change to the zoning map would make feasible a proposed development of a 100% affordable residential building on the site.

At the current zoning designation, financial limitations would prevent the site from hosting an affordable housing development, something that is sorely needed in the City. 297 Medford St. must be rezoned from Mid Rise 3 to Mid Rise 4 for this site for a developer to offset the cost to purchase the land. Experienced affordable housing developers, Just A Start, along with local partner Somerville Community Land Trust, have put forth a 100% affordable housing development concept well suited to the site and neighborhood.

I urge the City Council to approve this zoning map amendment that will be a vital step toward promoting housing affordability in Somerville. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Anne Matthews

[REDACTED], Somerville 02143

Madalyn Letellier

From: aaron bickel [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Planning1
Subject: 297 Medford St

Hi,
I live a couple blocks away from 297 Medford St and I just wanted to express my support for this project. I think it is a great use of land located right next to the Gilman Square T.

I hope for the sake of Gilman Square that this building can be built with ground floor retail/restaurant space. Gilman Square is sorely lacking any space for small business and especially a cafe or restaurant. With most of the major development on the western side of Gilman paused indefinitely while the city tries to determine what they want to do with the Homan's parcel, it is even more important to have retail options for those of us who live here now and the many people who will be able to move in to this new building.

-Aaron Bickel
[REDACTED]

Madalyn Letellier

From: Clay Oshiro-Leavitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Support for 297 Medford St Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my support for the 297 Medford St. project by Just a Start and the Somerville Community Land Trust. This is an excellent use of a current vacant lot and the city of Somerville (and greater Boston area) desperately needs more affordable housing as well. The location is good as well, with easy access to the Green Line at Gilman Sq. and various bus routes down nearby Highland Ave. The only way I could see this project being better were if it was able to include additional units.

Regards,
Clay Oshiro-Leavitt
Ward 5 Resident

Madalyn Letellier

From: Don Meglio [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 5:06 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: 297 Medford St.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Members of the Planning Board and Land Use Planning Committee,

As a long-time resident of this city, I wish to add my support to the development of seven stories of affordable housing at 297 Medford St.

Like me, you probably all understand the desperate need for affordable housing in this city. This location is perfect for this project. Cited near mass transportation with the proper scale, this proposal is one you need to seriously support and move along quickly. When the GLX was initially envisioned and successfully advocated for, this was the kind of project everyone contemplated and hoped would take place.

Please do your best to move this project along as quickly as you can. JAS and other members of the development team have done their best to put together a project we can all be proud of.

Respectfully,

Don Meglio
[REDACTED]
Somerville, MA 02143

Madalyn Letellier

From: jenn harrington [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 5:13 PM
To: Public Comments; Planning1
Subject: Public Comment: #25-0269

Dear Somerville City Councilors and the Planning Board,

Jenn Harrington (she/her): I have been a renter at [REDACTED] in Somerville for over 20 years.

#25-0269: Yes, please.

Between this proposed development, the YMCA development, and the Central Street Studios preservation efforts, this neighborhood is building a heart of ethics! More 100% affordable housing everywhere, especially nearby public transit!

Thank you, Somerville Community Land Trust! Thank you, Just A Start! Thank you to every individual who is making this project happen!

Thanks for your time!
Jenn Harrington
Ward 3

For anyone bcc'd on this email, the deadline to submit public comment on these items is today at 7pm.

Madalyn Letellier

From: Jessica Donnelly Reed [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:38 AM
To: Public Comments; Planning1
Subject: Support for affordable housing at 297 Medford St.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi,

I'd like to register my support for the proposed development at 297 Medford St., which is a few blocks from where I live. Our neighborhood desperately needs more affordable housing, and this location near the T and another large building is an ideal place for it. I also love that this is being offered by a nonprofit, rather than lining the pockets of out of town developers.

Thanks,
Jess Reed
[REDACTED]