



2 Alpine Street, P.O. Box 440343 Somerville, MA 02144
<https://somervillechamber.org/>

October 15, 2021

Somerville Planning Board
C/O John Long, City Clerk
Somerville City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Chairman Capuano and Planning Board Members

I am writing on behalf of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce in support of map and text zoning amendments that will help bring millions of dollars in: commercial tax base; affordable housing linkage; and jobs linkage and millions of dollars in in-kind infrastructure including: green/civic space; arts and creative office space as well as hundreds of construction and permanent jobs.

Namely.

Map amendment to

- adjust a mid-rise parcel to high-rise to allow for a consistent 9-story building across the whole site.

Text amendment for the following:

- Permitting an in-lieu payment or in-kind contribution of off-site space to satisfy the Civic Space requirement
- To increase rear setback between buildings to 20 feet where an existing building is noncompliant to a rear setback. This increased rear setback can be achieved by reducing the sidewalk width requirements, maintaining a 12 foot minimum sidewalk width. In these cases, 5% of building area must be reserved for Arts & Creative Enterprise uses.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen V. Mackey".

Stephen V. Mackey
President/CEO

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cityclerk@somervillema.gov