



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

GEORGE J PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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AMELIA ABOFF, *VICE CHAIR*
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LUC SCHUSTER, *ALTERNATE*

16 February, 2023

The Honorable City Council
City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Honorable City Council:

In keeping with its lawful responsibilities, the Somerville Planning Board submits to your Honorable Council its recommendation on the following proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance. On 2 February 2023, at 6:30 p.m. the Planning Board and Land Use Committee of the City Council held a duly advertised virtual joint public hearing. The purpose of the hearing was to solicit public comments on the proposed amendments to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance and to evaluate the proposals in the context of testimony received and the findings and analysis of the Staff to the Planning Board. On 16 February 2023, the Board convened at their regularly scheduled meeting to discuss the three (3) agenda items:

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

1. Mayor Ballantyne proposes an amendment to Section 6.1 Commercial Districts: Fabrication of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to permit additional uses for ground story commercial spaces fronting a Pedestrian Street.

The Board deliberated and solicited input from staff to mitigate the concerns raised and made the following specific recommendation. Following due consideration, Chair Michael A. Capuano, Esq. made a motion to recommend that the proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance **be adopted** by the City Council. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Aboff, and unanimously approved by the Board, **5-0**.

2. The Somerville Planning Board proposes an amendment to Section 15.1.3 Neighborhood Meetings of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to improve the neighborhood meeting process.



The Board deliberated and solicited input from staff to mitigate the concerns raised and made the following specific recommendation. Following due consideration, Chair Michael A. Capuano, Esq. made a motion to recommend that the proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance **be adopted** by the City Council. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Aboff, and unanimously approved by the Board, **5-0**.

3. Mayor Ballantyne proposes an amendment to Section 10.8 Commercial Signs of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to permit commercial signs by right.

The Board deliberated and solicited input from staff to mitigate the concerns raised and made the following specific recommendation. Following due consideration, Chair Michael A. Capuano, Esq. made a motion to recommend that the proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance **be adopted** by the City Council. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Aboff, and unanimously approved by the Board, **5-0**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Capuano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael A. Capuano
Chair of the Planning Board