



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

THOMAS GALLIGANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MEMBERS**

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AMELIA ABOFF, *VICE CHAIR*  
JAHAN HABIB, *CLERK*  
MICHAEL MCNELEY  
DEBBIE HOWITT EASTON, *ALTERNATE*  
LUC SCHUSTER, *ALTERNATE*

11 March, 2024

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 15 February 2024, 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 7 March 2024, the Board convened at their regularly scheduled meeting to discuss the following two (2) agenda items:

**PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION**

1. Mayor Ballantyne requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to amend Article 9: Use Provisions, and the Permitted Uses tables of all zoning districts, to establish a Recreational Camp for Children use within the Recreational Services use category.

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. Gregg Donovan requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 321 Washington Street from Fabrication (FAB) to Commercial Industry (CI).



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 **make no recommendation** on whether the City Council should or should not adopt the proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance, incorporating the relevant discussion from the 7 March 2024 Planning Board meeting, including the following:

- The Planning Board stated that sufficient information was not provided by the petitioner to consider in their deliberation. Chair Michael A. Capuano, Vice Chair Amelia Aboff, and Member McNeley pointed out the significant opposition evident in the public comments, coupled with the petitioner's insufficient application, leading them to conclude with a "no recommendation". Additionally, the Board would like to encourage Staff to explore rezoning in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M.A. Capuano", written in a cursive style.

Michael A. Capuano  
Chair of the Planning Board