



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

Environmental Management Support, Inc.
Attn: Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

December 19, 2014

Dear Mrs. Findeis:


Please find attached the City of Somerville, Massachusetts's grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Assessment Program. This grant application requests \$400,000 in funding for a citywide assessment that will inventory, categorize, and conduct planning and community development related to Brownfield sites in Somerville that have been contaminated by hazardous substances and petroleum.

Somerville is an urban community adjacent to Boston. With a population over 75,000 residents living in just 4.1 square miles, Somerville is the 7th most densely populated city in the country. There are only 123 acres of open space in Somerville, and currently only a fraction of buildable space can be used for commercial development—a vital component to building the city's tax base. The assessment and development of underutilized and vacant Brownfield sites, most of which are concentrated in the City's lowest-income neighborhoods, offers Somerville the greatest opportunity to increase desperately needed commercial land, affordable housing and recreational space throughout the city.

Somerville has an extraordinary track record of returning Brownfield sites to active use as parks and community gardens, as well as multi-use projects that have resulted in new affordable housing and commercial tax receipts. For instance, at 259 Lowell Street, we transformed a 75,000 square foot former mattress factory into Massachusetts' first affordable assisted living facility for low-income seniors (97 units). The \$14.5 million in site development costs were obtained through numerous sources, but the EPA's \$43,500 in Brownfield site testing pilot funding was critical in launching the project. More than 45 new jobs have been created as part of this project.

As Somerville prepares for a new light rail station in Union Square, our focus is on realizing 2.2 million square feet of potential new development, in a sustainable, transit-oriented and mixed-use neighborhood. Specifically, we hope to relocate disparate police and fire stations into one new facility, and assess the pre-existing facilities for new development in the heart of Union Square. The award of this grant to Somerville would advance our ability to undertake the assessment activity needed to begin the transformation of these parcels, and in the process, continue the transformation of our city into a place where all residents—longtime, new immigrant, and of all socioeconomic backgrounds—can afford to live, work, play and raise their families.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor

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Transmittal Letter – Supplemental Information

a. Applicant Identification

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
 City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue
 Somerville, MA 02143

b. DUNS Number

076621572

c. Funding Requested

- i. Grant Type: Assessment
- ii. Funding Requested: \$400,000
- iii. Contaminant type: Hazardous substance *and* petroleum
 - \$200,000 towards hazardous substances
 - \$200,000 towards petroleum
- iv. Community-wide

d. Location

City of Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

e. N/A

f. Contacts

Project Director:

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Chief Executive

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g. Date Submitted

December 19, 2014

h. Project Period

10/1/2015 – 9/30/2018

i. Population

77,739 (2013 ACS Survey)

j. “Other Factors” Checklist

See Attached