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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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November 24, 2010

The Honorable Board of Aldermen
City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: An ordinance amending the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to modify uses in Article 7, Development Standards in Article 6, and Development Process in Article 16 to allow Self Storage uses in the Assembly Square Mixed Use District (ASMD) and establish specific development standards for such uses and other developments along the interstate highway in the ASMD.

Dear Honorable Board of Aldermen:

In keeping with its lawful responsibilities, the Planning Board submits to your Honorable Board its recommendation on proposed amendments to modify uses in Article 7, Development Standards in Article 6, and Development Process in Article 16.

On November 4, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. the Planning Board held a duly advertised public hearing jointly with your Board's Land Use Committee in the Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. The purpose of the hearing was to solicit public comments on the proposed amendments and to evaluate the amendments in the context of testimony received and the findings and analysis of the Planning Staff. The Planning Board voted to recommend **APPROVAL** of the proposed amendments as recommended by Planning Staff.



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FORMAT OF REPORTS

These amendments were addressed in an initial staff report provided to your honorable board on September 23, 2010, with the initial version of the proposed amendments.

Four members from the public testified in favor of the amendment and nobody testified in opposition. Public comment was supportive but included suggestions to clarify language and ensure that self-storage development is limited to projects that provide significant community benefits, including better connections to and from the MBTA station at Assembly Square.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Following discussion, Kevin Prior, Chair, made a motion to approve the proposed amendment which carried 5-0.

The Planning Board recommends APPROVAL of the attached zoning amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Prior". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kevin Prior
Chair