



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

MEMO

To: Finance Committee, City Council

From: Rachel Nadkarni, Director of Economic Development, OSPCD

Date: November 18, 2023

RE: #23-1718 – Requesting the appropriation of \$170,000 from the Union Square Community Benefits Stabilization Fund Account, with \$100,000 for Workforce Development Services and \$70,000 for Small Business Technical Assistance Services.

cc: Alan Inacio, Director of Finance and Community Development, OSPCD
Ed Bean, Director of Finance, Auditor

For the last several years the City of Somerville has signed development covenants with the developers of large projects to secure voluntary contributions to the City for the purpose of advancing shared goals that benefit new development, current residents and businesses alike. In 2020/2021, the goal had been to develop a standard process by which distribution of these funds would occur. However, that work was delayed with the onset of the pandemic.

When the work was pushed back, the Administration put forward and the City Council approved funding investment in workforce development services and small business technical assistance services for the Union Square area, noting these were important efforts to get underway in the context of the pandemic. The appropriations also align directly with priorities outlined in the Community Benefits Agreement made between the Union Square Neighborhood Council, an independent community group, and Union Square Station Associates (US2). It was later found that, procedurally, a separate appropriation for these voluntary contributions would be needed each year. This is the third annual appropriation toward this goal, which is part of the five-year goal laid out in the Community Benefits Agreement.

Thinking toward further disbursements from the collected voluntary contributions, the Administration, led by the Economic Development Division, looks forward to establishing the policies and procedures for distributing these funds as soon as time allows.