

Madalyn Letellier

From: mike steele [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 4:35 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Concerns from abutter about File 23-1827

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Councilors,

These comments are about the proposal: Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District (File 23-1827)

My name is Michael Steele and I am the owner and an occupant of 22 Properzi Way in Somerville. My house is directly across the street from the proposed development listed above. I have major concerns about the proposal that I would like to share with you.

From my office on the second floor of the house, I constantly watch cars struggle to make it down our narrow street. With street parking on both sides of the street, only one car can fit at a time. I constantly see cars reversing down the street to allow another car to pass. Strangers use our driveway all the time to turn around, to avoid equally narrow Tyler Street. The majority of these cars are not residents of the neighborhood, they are using our little streets as a shortcut to Dane Street, to avoid waiting for a traffic light on Somerville Ave. There's no way Properzi Way could handle the amount of traffic the proposal has.

My fiancé relies on our car to get to work everyday in Watertown. The traffic caused by the proposal would seriously impact his ability to get to work.

Thank you for taking the time to read these concerns,
Michael

Madalyn Letellier

From: bill.williamfrese.com [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 29, 2023 12:00 PM
To: Public Comments; All City Council
Subject: Somernova Proposal

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Greetings Somerville Councilors,

I currently have a drawing studio at 438-rear Somerville Ave, Union.

I am writing this letter to address the recent proposal submitted by Rafi Properties/Somernova to change the existing zoning in this area.

I strongly disagree with changing the existing "FAB" zoning in this vicinity.

First, shoe-horning two massive 16 floor edifices into such narrow property footprint just feet away from 438r's is ridiculous. The years of construction necessary for such an over-scaled project, constrained by railroad tracks on edge of this property, will abolish essential vehicular load-in/load-out access for established businesses in the 43 Access to Market Basket, a bastion for our diverse neighborhood low-income folks seeking reasonable food prices compromised.

Further, the seismic impact of installing below grade pilings necessary for a building of 16 floor height, will sacrifice structural integrity of 438r's 1890 structure. This seismic disturbance will also have an adverse influence on the Milk Row Cemetery (est.1804), listed on The National Register of Places. The Civil War Monument tower installed in 1863, is considered one of the oldest monuments in the world dedicated to Union Soldiers (Somerville Light Infantry) & the tombstones are delicate & the ground is sacred. Likewise, the shadow impact from Somernova's 3a & 3b buildings on The Milk Row Cemetery will disrupt existing sunlight/environmental cycles that this section of cemetery has been accustomed to for over 200 years.

Lastly, permitting such an enormous development in an area where the existing abutting roof lines do not exceed creates *precedence*; enabling & emboldening hastily conceived over-scaled profit driven developments to proliferate in the Somerville community & once again displacing The Arts & Creative Economy.

Thank you for your time & efforts.

Bill Frese
[REDACTED]

Madalyn Letellier

From: Paula Garbarino [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 8:52 PM
To: Public Comments; All City Council
Subject: Somernova proposal

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Dear Somerville City Government,

As a Somerville resident of 49 years and neighbor to the Somernova zoning proposal, I am extremely concerned about the lack of city overview on this huge project. A big concern is traffic: the streets crossing the tracks approaching this site are bottle necks already at capacity, indicating that the predicted daily trips to and from the proposed buildings would be a preposterous strain on narrow roads.

A further point regards scale: the proposal is for high rise structures totally out of proportion to the surrounding homes. Where is the discussion of HUMAN SCALE? High rise density requires public transportation such as in Union Square, Assembly Square, Brickbottom, and Boynton Yards. Shadow studies may support high building in these areas but not at the old Ames complex.

I am unable to find guidelines as to the limit of acceptable size and traffic under the new zoning label "Climate and Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District". City planning should include focus on preserving a livable city and not be distracted by idealized street photos as seen in the Somernova PR.

Furthermore, I am throughly disappointed at the suggested removal of the Fabrication Zone, a usage I strongly support.

Everyone supports having a Community Center. But the centrally located new high school was advertised as offering community spaces and is the obvious convenient location for young peoples activities.

In conclusion, I ask that you reign in the excessive ambitions of the Somernova proposal by not granting the zoning change.

Sincerely,

Paula Garbarino
[REDACTED]
Somerville, MA 02143

Madalyn Letellier

From: Natty Hoffman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 10:53 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Land Committee Zoning Meeting, Dec 7, ITEM NUMBER: 23-1625

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To the Members of the Zoning Board

As a resident of Somerville in the same building where Commonwealth Clayworks will open, I am so pleased that Commonwealth Clayworks pottery studio will be our neighbor. I am writing to express my support for the request to add "Shared Workspace & Arts Education" to the existing Arts and Creative Enterprise list of permitted uses. (*Section 7.2.7 of the Zoning Ordinances*)

Allowing Commonwealth Clayworks to teach and hold workshops at this location would be a great use of vacant space and provide a place for people to come together, learn new skills and create beautiful things.

Sincerely,
Natty Hoffman
[REDACTED]

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Natty Hoffman

[See my calendar and book a meeting](#)

Madalyn Letellier

From: Joseph Suizzo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Public Comments; All City Council
Subject: Concerns re: Somernova Re-zoning proposal

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Hello there,

As a Somerville resident, I am strongly opposed to Somernova's proposal to rezone and expand their campus.

I am concerned about dramatic increases in traffic to an already congested area. Also, as a regular visitor to community centers such as Boston Bouldering Project and Aeronaut, I am entirely opposed to the shutdown and destruction of these important spaces.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Suizzo

[REDACTED]
Somerville, MA 02143

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[Joe Suizzo \(he/they\)](#)

[REDACTED]