



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
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GERARD AMARAL, *ALT.*

July 18, 2013

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

Re: An ordinance amending the Somerville Zoning Ordinance (SZO) Section 7.11.9.2 to separate supermarket from general merchandise and department store in the use table and Section 2.2 to add definitions of these uses

Dear Honorable Board of Aldermen:

In keeping with its lawful responsibilities, the Planning Board submits to your Honorable Board its recommendation on an ordinance to separate supermarket from general merchandise and department store in the use table and add definitions of these uses. This amendment was addressed in a staff report provided to your honorable board dated February 14, 2013 and resubmitted for the July hearing. Planning Staff also submitted this initial staff report to the Planning Board.

On July 18, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. the Planning Board and Land Use Committee of the Board of Aldermen jointly held a duly advertised public hearing in the Aldermanic Chambers in City Hall. 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.

This report from the Planning Board to the Board of Aldermen will focus on the discussion at the July 18, 2013 meeting and its final recommendation.

DISCUSSION DURING HEARING



At the public hearing on July 18, 2013, George Proakis, Director of Planning, explained the proposal as outlined in the staff report. The Board discussed the proposed definition of a grocery store in terms of the percentage of the square footage that is dedicated to the sale of food. They also discussed how the change would impact the Star Market site in Winter Hill. It was also clarified that this amendment does not relate to the grocery store amendment currently pending for the Assembly Square District.

No constituents appeared to speak during the public hearing.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Following due consideration, Elizabeth Moroney made a motion to **RECOMMEND APPROVAL** the proposed amendment as laid out in the Planning Staff Report of April 18, 2013. Michael Capuano seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

The Land Use Committee kept the written record open until noon on August 17, 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Prior". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Prior" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin Prior
Chair