



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

**OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

December 16, 2010

Honorable Alderman Heuston  
City Hall  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Board Order #189412  
Use of Storefront Improvement Program funding to the street edge of parking lots

Alderman Heuston:

Please be advised that OSPCD is in receipt of your Board Order #189412, dated May 12, 2010.

In response, OSPCD has determined that the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to soften the edge of parking lots fronting public rights of way may be an eligible expense when that work is part of larger façade improvement. As with all CDBG funded construction projects, the work performed must be permanent with a life of at least 5 years.

In Somerville the initiative that best meets these criteria is the Storefront Improvement Program Matching Grant Program. The City will match every \$1 a business or property owner invest with \$3 in CBDG funding, up to a total City investment of \$35,000.

While OSPCD staff has had preliminary conversations with property owners about using SIP funding to make improvements to parking areas, none of the business/property owners has wanted to pursue this option for fear of losing parking spaces. We will continue to promote this option and hope to bring more green into our commercial districts.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Rob May, Director of Economic Development, at 617-625-6600 x 2524.

Respectfully,

MONICA R. LAMBOY  
Executive Director

