

Madalyn Letellier

From: jenn harrington [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:20 PM
To: Public Comments; Mayor; All City Council; Ami Bennitt;
[REDACTED]; Gregory Jenkins; Michael Rosenberg
Cc: [REDACTED]; Ajda the Turkish Queen; Ami Bennitt; Becky Donner; Daniel Coughlin; Ethan Dussault
Subject: Creative Displacement items on City Council Agenda, 2/13: 25-0192, 25-0252, and 25-0255

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Dear Mayor Ballantyne, City Council, the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston, and #ArtStaysHere,

I have been a renter at [REDACTED] for over 20 years. I have been an active volunteer in the creative economy since just about the moment I moved here. Recently, I volunteered on the Anti-Displacement Task Force as Co-chair of the Creative Displacement Committee.

I'm so grateful that the City, the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston, the building owners, #ArtStaysHere, and the creatives of Central Square Studios are working together to try to preserve one of Somerville's artist workspaces. As a resident, it is massively important to me that creatives like [sidebody](#) can thrive in the area I live. That phenomenal band as well as many other amazing and unique musicians, artists, writers, and other creatives are why I moved here, stay here, and contribute my time and energy to Somerville.

Preservation of creative spaces is a massive win right now. There are too few spaces. We can't afford to lose one more. I look forward to a day when we can celebrate growth! While we wait for that time, you have my sincere appreciation for making moves to save our creative economy!

Speaking of creative space growth, I would like to thank Councilor Burnley for raising the Anti-Displacement Task Force's recommendation about the possibility of a short-term rental program with 50% of funds allocated to funding the creative economy ([see page 55 of the Creative Displacement Committee report](#)). Our report recommends several ways the City can fund the arts. This recommendation is one that, if marked sound, can be completed swiftly, especially with the assurance that many neighboring cities have adopted the short-term rental program.

It is such a relief to write a letter about things that are proactive and good!

Jenn Harrington
Ward 3