

Madalyn Letellier

From: Sal LaRiccia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2024 1:52 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Vladimir Benoit
Subject: Fwd: Request for your support of Zoning Change associated with item number 24-0641

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Dear City of Somerville Public Comments,

About Me:

My name is Sal LaRiccia and I live in East Somerville. I am 74 years old and have had significant health issues. In late 2022 I had triple bypass heart surgery at Lahey Clinic. That operation was successful. After the surgery I participated in rehab at Mt. Auburn Hospital and when I completed that I was instructed that I had to maintain my heart health through diet and exercise and that meant a formalized program of cardio exercise. I have never exercised, so this was a new experience for me. I never dreamed that I would actually enjoy exercising, but I found the YMCA on Highland Ave. They have a facility with a personal touch and I go 3 times a week and have made some friends there. I look forward to exercising at the Y!

Not only do I feel physically better because of the exercise and the equipment, but the staff is very supportive and personal. That means more than I can say in words.

My Request:

I am writing to express my full support for the zoning change request associated with item number 24-0641. As an active member of our community, I firmly believe that this proposed zoning modification will have a profoundly positive impact on the YMCA who is undertaking a redevelopment project.

The zoning change, if approved, will play a pivotal role in facilitating the realization of a transformative redevelopment project, which encompasses vital components such as the development of affordable housing, the construction of a state-of-the-art YMCA facility, and the creation of spaces dedicated to fostering community engagement opportunities. These elements are aligned with Somervision2040 for sustainable growth and community well-being.

I respectfully urge the City Council and Planning Department to consider and endorse this zoning change request, recognizing its capacity to uplift and empower nonprofits seeking to make a meaningful difference within our community. Your support of this initiative will undoubtedly contribute to the overall betterment of our community and the well-being of its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the profound and lasting impact that this zoning change can have on our community and nonprofit organizations like the YMCA, who are striving to make a difference within it.

Sincerely,

Sal LaRicca

[REDACTED]

Somerville, MA 02145

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[REDACTED]

Madalyn Letellier

From: Melanny Motto [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 2:08 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: New YMCA

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Dear City Council and Planning Department,

I am writing to express my full support for the zoning change request associated with item number 24-0641. As an active member of our community, I firmly believe that this proposed zoning modification will have a profoundly positive impact on the YMCA who is undertaking a redevelopment project.

The zoning change, if approved, will play a pivotal role in facilitating the realization a transformative redevelopment project, which encompasses vital components such as the development of affordable housing, the construction of a state-of-the-art YMCA facility, and the creation of spaces dedicated to fostering community engagement opportunities. These elements are aligned with Somervision2040 for sustainable growth and community well-being.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the profound and lasting impact that this zoning change can have on our community and nonprofit organizations like the YMCA, who are striving to make a difference within it.

Thanks,
Melanny

Madalyn Letellier

From: Thomas Scahill [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 4:02 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Comments on Land Use Committee's 7-9-24 agenda items

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Hello.

I attended the Land Use Committee's meeting on 7-9-24, and stayed through the end of the first agenda item. I am generally in favor of the proposed zoning amendments for the SomerNova project, though I share the concerns of the local artists that this would be rolling back some of the intent of the FAB zoning district. In the end, I think that the proposal that Rafi Properties has put forward is better than what would happen to these parcels should they decide to sell rather than redevelop the land per the proposed project. I agree with the members of the arts community that the loss of arts space in Somerville in recent years has been tragic. However, I think Rafi's proposal is actually a small win in this area, as their proposal includes some 20,000 feet of Arts and Creative Enterprise space. Obviously, this pales in comparison to the amount of space lost in Union Square alone, and I hope the city will do more to stop the loss of arts space (and with it, artists) from Somerville.

I strongly support changing the zoning designation of 228-236 Pearl Street from MR4 to MR6. This seems like an obvious win for adding badly needed housing to Somerville.

I also strongly support all of the zoning amendments requested by the YMCA to change the zoning district of 136 School Street from Urban Residence (UR) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6), 95 Highland Avenue from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to MR6, and 97, 99-99A, 101-103, and 107 Highland Avenue from Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) to MR6. This proposal will have enormous public benefit, and the YMCA, as a charitable organization, deserves all of the latitude it has requested to build the best new facility it can.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best regards,
Tom Scahill