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The Honorable City Council
City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

April 22, 2019

Re: Zoning Amendments 206481, 207460, 205054, and 207332.

Dear Honorable City Council:

In keeping with its lawful responsibilities, the Planning Board submits to your Honorable Council its recommendation on four proposed amendments to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance regarding Usable Open Space, open space requirements for mid-rise and high-rise buildings, and new open space requirements for certain buildings in the Assembly Square Mixed Use District.

On March 12, 2019, the Planning Board and Land Use Committee of the City Council held a duly advertised joint public hearing in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the hearing was to solicit public comments on the proposed amendments and to evaluate the proposal in the context of testimony received and information provided by the Planning Division. At a meeting of the Planning Board on April 18, 2019, after due consideration of relevant testimony and discussion with Planning Staff, Michael Capuano made a motion, seconded by Amelia Aboff and Joseph Favaloro to express **general support for improved open space requirements in zoning as expressed by the intent of all four of the proposed amendments, but to incorporate improvements, in any form, into the proposed new Somerville Zoning Ordinance rather than continuing to amend the existing zoning ordinance, which is now outdated and subject to a comprehensive overhaul before the Council at this very moment.** The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Sincerely,

Michael Capuano, Chair

