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October 9, 2018

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

Re: Zoning Amendment 206285: City Solicitor submitting Zoning Ordinance Amendments regarding Adult Use Marijuana Establishments

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 amend the Marijuana Overlay District and add a new section relative to adult-use marijuana establishments.

On September 6, 2018, 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 amendment and to evaluate the amendment in the context of testimony received and information provided by the Planning Staff at the hearing.

At a meeting of the Planning Board on September 20, 2018, George Proakis provided an overview of the proposed amendment and discussed potential responses to community concerns regarding some of the parcels adjacent to the Argenziano School. Following due consideration, Joseph Favaloro made a motion, seconded by Michael Capuano to **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE with the following recommendations:**

- change the map to remove the few parcels within 500 feet of the entrance to the Argenziano School;
- be strongly mindful of equity concerns and how strict regulations can impact smaller businesses;
- consider language to ensure adequate distance between retail establishments;

- the design of retail establishments should be distinct without being garish;
- retail establishments should not be concentrated in one particular area of the City and there should be opportunities for the retail establishments to be dispersed throughout the City.

The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Capuano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Michael Capuano, Chair