CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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May 16, 2025

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

Dear Honorable City Council:

In keeping with its lawful responsibilities, the Somerville Planning Board submits to your Honorable Council its recommendations on the following proposed amendments to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance. On May 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. the Planning Board and Land Use Committee of the City Council held a duly advertised virtual joint public hearing. The purpose of the hearing was to solicit public comments on the proposed amendments to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance and to evaluate the proposals in the context of testimony received and the findings and analysis of the Staff to the Planning Board. On May 15, 2025 at 6:45pm, the Board re-convened their regularly scheduled meeting and discussed the following agenda items:

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Article 2 and Article 10 of the Zoning Ordinance to revise definitions and the green score calculation of columnar trees (File # 25-0737).

The Board deliberated and solicited input from staff and made the following specific recommendations. Following due consideration, Chair Michael Capuano made a motion to recommend that the proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance **be approved** by the City Council. The motion was seconded by Clerk Jahan Habib, and unanimously passed by the Board, **5-0,** with the following discussion:

- The Planning Board recommends a clarification that girth should be measured at the canopy width.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Capuano
Chair of the Planning Board