**MEMORANDUM** 

**BOARD APPROVED** 

**JULY 11, 2019** 

TO:

**BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY** 

D/B/A BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (BPDA)\*

AND BRIAN P. GOLDEN, DIRECTOR

FROM:

JONATHAN GREELEY, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT

REVIEW/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS EBONY DAROSA, PROJECT MANAGER

MICHAEL CANNIZZO, SENIOR ARCHITECT MEGHAN RICHARD, URBAN DESIGNER II MUGE UNDEMIR, SENIOR PLANNER I

**SUBJECT:** 

9 LEYLAND STREET, ROXBURY

**SUMMARY:** This Memorandum requests that the Boston Redevelopment Authority

("BRA") d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA") authorize the Director to: (1) issue a Certification of Approval for the proposed development located at 9 Leyland street in Roxbury (the "Proposed Project"), in accordance with Article 80E, Small Project Review, of the Boston Zoning Code (the "Code") and take any other actions and execute any other agreements and documents that the Director deems appropriate and necessary in connection with the Proposed Project; and (2) recommend approval to the City of Boston Zoning Board of Appeal on Petition BOA – 907414 for zoning relief necessary to construct the Proposed Project subject to design review

by the BPDA.

# **PROJECT SITE**

The Proposed Project is located at 9 Leyland Street in Roxbury between East Cottage Street and Burgess Street (the "Project Site"). The Project Site is approximately 17,179 square feet of land and is currently a vacant lot.

<sup>\*</sup> Effective October 20, 2016, the BRA commenced doing business as the BPDA.

The Project Site is located directly opposite a community garden, and to the rear of the property is an existing children's playscape. The site abuts a driveway and a neighbor to the east. The remaining housing on that sided of Leyland Street and the property directly behind it on Dudley Street was developed by Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation as affordable housing. To the east of the block is the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and the Upham's Corner Commuter Rail Station.

#### **DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

Proponent:

<u>Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation</u>

John Mahony

Architect:

D/R/E/A/M Collaborative

Michael Paganetti and Sara Kudra

Legal Counsel:

Klein Hornig

Joseph Lieber

### **PROPOSED PROJECT**

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (the "Proponent") proposes to construct a five (5)-story, age-restricted residential building totaling approximately 41,000 square feet. The building will contain forty-three (43) age-restricted, affordable rental units, and approximately 2,400 square feet of community space on the ground and second floors. There will be a total of nine (9) off-street parking spaces, two (2) of which will be handicap accessible. A trash/recycling room will be located within the basement level of the building, and trash chutes will be within each floor of the building (the "Proposed Project").

As currently proposed, the forty-three (43) rental units will all be affordable. Of these units sixteen (16), will be made affordable to households with incomes no greater than 30% of Area Median Income ("AMI"), and twenty-seven (27) units will be made affordable to households with incomes no greater than 60% of AMI. There will be a mix of forty-one (41) one-bedroom units, and two (2) two-bedroom units.

The Proponent plans to commence construction of the Proposed Project in 2020. The total development cost is approximately \$20,000,000.

#### **ARTICLE 80 REVIEW PROCESS**

On May 29, 2019, the Proponent filed a Small Project Review application with the BPDA for the Proposed Project, pursuant to Article 80E of the Code. The BPDA-sponsored public meeting was held on June 20, 2019 at the Cottage Brook Apartments Community Center located at 622 Dudley Street in Roxbury. The meeting was advertised in the Bay State Banner and Dorchester Reporter newspapers on June 13, 2019. The BPDA comment period concluded on June 28, 2019.

#### ZONING

The Project Site is situated within the Roxbury Neighborhood District and is governed by Article 50 of the Code. The Proposed Project will require zoning relief from the following: Floor Area Ratio Excessive, Building Height and Stories, Insufficient Lot Area per Dwelling Unit, Useable Open Space Insufficient, Rear Yard Insufficient, Front Yard Insufficient, Off-Street Parking Insufficient, and Off-Street Loading Insufficient.

#### INCLUSIONARY DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENT

The Proposed Project is financed as one entity and contains 43 income restricted units, or 100% of the total units. As such, the Proposed Project is exempt from the Inclusionary Development Policy, dated December 10, 2015. It is anticipated that the Proposed Project will receive funding from the City of Boston, and the ongoing affordability of the project will be monitored under a MassDocs agreement.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Proposed Project complies with the requirements set forth in Section 80E of the Code for Small Project Review. Therefore, BPDA staff recommends that the Director be authorized to: (1) issue a Certification of Approval for the Proposed Project; and take any other action and execute any other agreements and documents that the Director deems appropriate and necessary in connection with the Proposed Project; and (2) recommend approval to the Boston Zoning Board of

Appeal on Petition BOA – 907414 for zoning relief necessary to construct the Proposed Project with the proviso that the plans be submitted to the BPDA.

Appropriate votes follow:

#### **VOTED:**

That the Director be, and hereby is, authorized to issue a Certification of Approval pursuant to Section 80E-6 of the Boston Zoning Code (the "Code"), approving the development consisting of a five-story, senior affordable housing building totaling approximately 41,000 square feet and containing forty-three (43) rental units at 9 Leyland Street in Roxbury (the "Proposed Project") in accordance with the requirements of Small Project Review, Article 80E, of the Code, subject to continuing design review by the Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA") and execute any other agreements and documents that the Director deems appropriate and necessary in connection with the Proposed Project; and

# **FURTHER**

## **VOTED:**

That the Director be, and hereby is authorized to issue the following recommendation to the City of Boston Zoning Board of Appeal on Petition BOA – 907414 for zoning relief necessary in connection with the Proposed Project: <u>APPROVAL WITH PROVISO</u>: that plans are submitted to the BRA for design review approval.

# **9 Leyland Street, Dorchester**









Mr. Brian Golden
Boston Planning and Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Re: Small Project Article 80 Approval for Leyland Street Supportive Senior Housing

Dear Mr. Golden,

I am writing this letter in support of the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC) in their pursuit of article 80 approval for a new affordable supportive senior housing project in Dorchester. This project, located in the Upham's Corner neighborhood, is an area that has been identified by the Imagine Boston 2030 plan as an area ripe for opportunity and investment and is on the cusp of transformative change. I have lived in the area of Upham's for over 50 years and have been supportive of my community through my past service as a Massachusetts State Representative and in my current role as an At-Large Boston City Councilor.

While investing in a neighborhood that has historically experienced under-investment can bring substantial benefits to the residents of the neighborhood, it also brings with it the potential for gentrification and displacement. Dorchester has already begun to feel the pressures of rising housing prices and gentrification, which is seen through recent projects such as the high-end South Bay Center Mall. The Leyland Street project will ensure that those who are most vulnerable to displacement, such as low-income seniors, can reap the benefits of the project. The Housing Boson 2030 Plan has identified seniors as the largest growing population in Boston, and DBEDC is working hard to ensure that seniors continue to have a place to call home in our growing and changing City.

This project is being developed through a partnership between DBEDC and the Dream Collaborative, which is a minority-owned, Boston based architectural firm. 100% of the project's approximately 42 units are affordable to low income seniors earning 60% of the area median income or below. The project places an emphasis on serving extremely low-income seniors in a supportive environment that promotes health and quality of life. The proposed development will consist of a 5-story building with amenities, such as a library, laundry, parking and multiple gathering spaces to promote social interactions and a sense of community among the residents and the larger community. This project will be a welcome activation of an underutilized community asset.

In conclusion, I believe this project on Leyland Street is vitally necessary in order to take some of the pressure off senior citizens who are seeking affordable housing. As an At-Large Boston City Councilor I wholeheartedly support the development project on Leyland Street, and I applaud the outstanding work of the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC) in supporting senior housing. I hope that this development project is approved swiftly by the BPDA.

Sincerery,

Althea Garrison

Boston City Councilor At-Large

617-635-4217

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Comment: Created Date	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Opinion	Comments
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