

Dudley Vision Project: Community Update August 20, 2008

Dear Dudley Square Community Members & Friends:

I hope that this note finds you well and enjoying summer.

This is to provide update information on Mayor Thomas M. Menino **Dudley Vision Project**. Please feel free to share with those you know who may have interest.

In the summer of 2007, Mayor Menino launched the Dudley Vision Project, a multi-year, City-funded initiative to enhance the thriving retail district of Dudley Square. The project has at its core, three important building elements that will bring state of the art municipal facilities to the neighborhood – a **new Area B-2 Police Station**; a new **Dudley Square Municipal Building** and renovations to the exterior of the Dudley Branch Library.

Additional considerations for this project will result in the creation of a **Dudley Square Strategic Action Plan** to address programmatic areas of transportation, retail, jobs, environment and quality of life.

To collaborate with the team of senior staff from the various City of Boston agencies working on this initiative, Mayor Menino has appointed an advisory task force made up of members of the Dudley/Roxbury community. This group has been at work over the last several weeks becoming organized for the work to be undertaken this fall, and reviewing initial tasks and informational materials provided by the talented consulting firms working on this initiative.

With their involvement, there has been progress with many important components of this project such as:

- **Area B-2 Police Station Design** – Initial programming and design considerations have taken shape for the new police station with the technical expertise of the architecture firm *Leers-Weinzapfel*.
- **Transportation Action Plan & Parking Design Study** – The transportation/engineering team led by the firm *Traffic Solutions* has been engaged by the City of Boston to craft strategies for managing the effects of this important development initiative for Dudley Square. This scope of work will address issues of parking, circulation (vehicular and pedestrian traffic management) through streetscape improvements, and public transportation.

By way of announcement and update, please be advised of the following:

- **Site Preparation for New Municipal Building**

The first phase of work to facilitate creation of the Dudley Square Municipal Building – namely the “part-scale” demolition process for the former Guscott building – is near completion with full removal of materials from that site anticipated by end of August/mid-September.

As has been articulated previously, the exterior of the former Ferdinand Building will be maintained as part of the design for the new municipal site. Work to remove the interior parts of that structure will not be undertaken until design is completed.

- **Site Preparation for Modern Electroplating Building & Property**

To facilitate construction of the new police station and the creation of a new developable site for mixed-use/commercial and retail presence along Dudley Street, the City of Boston, through collaboration between the Department of Neighborhood Development (“DND”) and the BRA, will undertake to remove the long defunct buildings (this includes the former Boston Children Services Center) and to provide for the necessary environmental clean-up of the site.

The City of Boston will initiate a Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) advertisement process for the environmental clean up within the coming week to seek proposals/bids from experienced and qualified contractors for this important work.

Dudley Vision Advisory Task Force

*Jumaada Abdal-KhallaqSmith Carole Brennan Edna Bynoe Ronn Garry, Jr. Frederick Fairfield
Catherine Hardaway Rev. Dr. Michael Haynes Arthur J. Hurley III Khalida Smalls Jorge Martinez, Sr.
Antonio Menefee Charlotte Nelson Hon. Judge Edward Redd Joyce Stanley Norman Stenbridge
Darnell Williams Sarah-Ann Shaw Andrea Swain Earl Tate Donovan Walker*

One City Hall Square Boston, MA 02201 Tel: 617-918-4200/Fax: 617-742-7783

- **Environmental Protection Agency Grant Award for Modern Site Clean-up**

On September 3, 2008 at 1:30pm (suggested arrival time), the Environmental Protection Agency will make a grant award to the City of Boston to support its efforts [See attached invitation for details]

- **Dudley Municipal Building Design Competition**

At the ceremonial demolition this past spring of the former Ferdinand Building, Mayor Menino announced a competition to engage the “best and brightest architectural firms” for the prospect of designing a state of the art municipal building in Dudley Square – this following on the great success of the Dudley Square Design Competition which was sponsored as part of this year’s American Institute of Architecture Annual Conference held in Boston.

Updates regarding an RFQ and parameters for the competition will be forthcoming in Fall 2008.

- **Community Updates and Information**

In addition to regular updates in publications like the *Boston Banner*, all advertisements for the Dudley Vision Project, meeting notes, presentation documents and related materials will be made available on the Boston Redevelopment Authority (“BRA”) website at www.cityofboston.gov/BRA/PlanningInits/DudleyVision and will also be placed at the Dudley Square Branch Library for public viewing.

- **Dudley Vision Advisory Task Force Working Sessions***

* **Please Note:** Working Sessions are open to the public; and are structured to allow for observation of the process as the Advisory Task Force addresses components of the meeting’s agenda. Members of the public are provided an opportunity at a designated point in the agenda – based on sign-in prior – to pose questions relevant to the topic at hand for that meeting

For your calendar, please make note of upcoming Dudley Vision Advisory Task Force Working Sessions and Meetings as follows and will be held at Hibernian Hall 184 Dudley Street, Roxbury:

- ***September 25th @ 6:30pm***
Proposed Agenda Topic: Initial discussion – Modern Site Preparation/Environment
- ***October 30th @ 6:30pm***
Proposed Agenda Topic: Update on Dudley Vision Transportation Action Plan
- ***November 20th @ 6:30pm***
Proposed Agenda Topic: Initial discussion of Dudley Vision Retail Strategy
- ***December 18th @ 6:30pm***
Proposed Agenda Topic: General Dudley Vision Overview & Status Updates

We very much look forward to your participation throughout this initiative. Please avail yourself of information provided on the BRA website or at the Dudley Branch Library as well through these periodic “Dudley Vision Community Update” emails.

Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself (Dana.WhiteSIDE.BRA@cityofboston.gov or 617-918-4441) or my assistant Pat Satterfield (Pat.Satterfield.BRA@cityofboston.gov or 617-918-4251)

Best regards,

***Dana Whiteside
Deputy Director Community Economic Development
Boston Redevelopment Authority***

Copy: Hugues Monestime, Senior Planner, BRA
Keith Williams, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services

Dudley Vision Advisory Task Force

*Jumaada Abdal-KhallaqSmith Carole Brennan Edna Bynoe Ronn Garry, Jr. Frederick Fairfield
Catherine Hardaway Rev. Dr. Michael Haynes Arthur J. Hurley III Khalida Smalls Jorge Martinez, Sr.
Antonio Menefee Charlotte Nelson Hon. Judge Edward Redd Joyce Stanley Norman Stenbridge
Darnell Williams Sarah-Ann Shaw Andrea Swain Earl Tate Donovan Walker*

One City Hall Square Boston, MA 02201 Tel: 617-918-4200/Fax: 617-742-7783