

MEMORANDUM

NOVEMBER 14, 2013

TO: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND
PETER MEADE, DIRECTOR

FROM: KAIROS SHEN, CHIEF PLANNER
JEFFREY M. HAMPTON, SENIOR LAND USE PLANNER III
ERICO LOPEZ, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY GUIDELINES
AND CHECKLIST

SUMMARY: This Memorandum requests authorization for the Director to adopt the Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency Guidelines and Checklist into the BRA Development Review Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

On March 30, 2009, Mayor Thomas M. Menino announced the members of the Boston Climate Action Leadership Committee (the "Leadership Committee"), a 22-member group representing the great diversity of our local community. The Leadership Committee was charged with charting Boston's collective response to climate change. Mayor Menino asked the Leadership Committee to address the following tasks within one year:

- Review the City of Boston's (the "City") existing Climate Action Plan;
- Set goals for community-wide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
- Recommend actions necessary to meet climate action goals;
- Evaluate the risks to the City from sea-level rise and other consequences of climate change, and recommend actions to reduce these risks;
- Prepare materials to motivate and assist City residents and businesses to take action; and
- Identify opportunities for expanding the green economy and green jobs in the City.

The Leadership Committee met six times over the course of a year, and was supported by a Technical Advisory Panel and the Mayor's Community Advisory Committee

("CAC"). The Leadership Committee presented its report entitled "Sparking Boston's Climate Revolution" to Mayor Menino on April 22, 2010.

On April 22, 2011, Mayor Menino announced "A Climate of Progress", the City's first climate action plan. A "Climate of Progress" incorporated "Sparking Boston's Climate Revolution", as well as the recommendations from the 2010 report of the Leadership Committee and the CAC.

On October 29, 2013, Mayor Menino announced the launch of Boston's next Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan will focus on climate preparedness and community engagement, while re-examining the City's strategies to reduce Boston's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent no later than 2020 and by 80 percent no later than 2050.

CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY GUIDELINES

In an effort to follow the directives set forth by the Mayor's Climate Action Plan, the Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA") has developed the Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency Guidelines (the "Guidelines"), as well as a Climate Change Resiliency and Preparedness Checklist (the "Checklist"). The Guidelines and Checklist are attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Guidelines and Checklist will allow the BRA, as well as existing building owners, to examine the climate preparedness of new development projects undergoing design review with the BRA in order to better understand and implement strategies and practices in preparing buildings for future climate conditions. All development projects subject to Boston Zoning Code Article 80 Small and Large Project Review, including all Institutional Master Plan modifications and updates, are to complete the Checklist and provide any necessary responses regarding project resiliency, preparedness, and strategies to reduce project impacts due to Climate Change.

The Guidelines will guide project proponents in analyzing project impacts on the proposed project's surrounding environment that are attributable to forecasted climate conditions over the full duration of the expected life of the Proposed Project. Utilizing the best available science, project proponents will be asked to identify changes in the climate and environment and how such changes will affect the Proposed Project's environmental impacts including the survivability, integrity and safety of the proposed project and its inhabitants. Climate change conditions may include, but are not limited to, sea-level rise, higher maximum and mean temperatures, more frequent and longer extreme heat events, more frequent and longer droughts, more severe freezing rain and heavy rainfall events, and increased wind gusts. Project proponents should analysis of secondary and cascading impacts including more frequent and longer interruptions of utility services including electrical, gas, and telecommunication systems, and disruptions of transportation systems and networks.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing, BRA staff recommends that the BRA authorize the Director to adopt the Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency Guidelines and Checklist into the proposed updated BRA Development Review Guidelines.

An appropriate vote follows:

VOTED: That the Director be, and hereby is, authorized to adopt the Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency Guidelines and Checklist into the updated "BRA Development Review Guidelines", both in substantial accord, with that presented to the Boston Redevelopment Authority at its meeting on November 14, 2013.