East Boston, Massachusetts

Application for Article 80 Small Project Review Boston Redevelopment Authority
October 31, 2013

Applicant/Developer: Pat Buonopane

Architect: Roche-Christopher Architecture LLC Legal Counsel: McDermott, Quilty & Miller, LLP

East Boston, Massachusetts

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#### McDermott, Quilty & Miller LLP

131 OLIVER STREET - 5TH FLOOR BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110

> TELEPHONE: 617-946-4600 FACSIMILE: 617-946-4624

October 31, 2013

#### **VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Peter Meade, Director Boston Redevelopment Authority One City Hall Square Boston, MA 02201 Attn: Raul Duverge

Re: Letter of Transmittal for Article 80 Small Project Review Application 917 Bennington Street, East Boston

Dear Director Meade:

As counsel to Pat Buonopane, the developer of the above referenced property (the "Project Proponent"), I am pleased to submit the enclosed application for Article 80 Small Project Review.

Located at 917 Bennington Street in Boston's East Boston neighborhood, the proposed project seeks to remove an existing funeral home and features the construction of a new five (5) story, 45 unit residential building with on-site parking and related improvements in open space, landscaping, and vehicular and pedestrian access to the site (the "Proposed Project"). The Proposed Project will consist of 45 residential rental units with 27 covered parking spaces and a roof deck. The existing funeral home to be removed at the site has no historic or architectural significance to the surrounding neighborhood.

The new residential building will be approximately 49,775 gross square feet of building, with 45 residential rental units on four (4) levels of building above a parking garage. Seven (7) of the residential units will be designated affordable. The building will be architecturally designed to complement the neighborhood's character and unique elements. The trash storage will be located within the parking garage.

Prior to making this submission, the Project Proponent engaged in productive discussions with staff at the BRA as well as certain local elected and appointed officials regarding the Proposed Project. The Project Proponent has already met with members of the surrounding community as well as the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council, the

Director Peter Meade October 31, 2013 Page Two

applicable neighborhood interest group. A copy of the Building Department refusal letter and the Project Proponent's related appeal for the proposed project are included in this application.

Thank you for your consideration of this application, and I look forward to working with you towards a successful outcome.

Very truly yours,

Stephen V. Miller, Esq.

Stephen Miller

Partner

cc: Pat Buonopane

Corinne Petraglia, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

District City Councilor Sal LaMattina

East Boston, Massachusetts

## **Development Team**

#### Applicant/Developer:

Pat Buonopane 154 Broadway Somerville, MA 02145 617-628-4900

#### Legal Consultant:

McDermott, Quilty & Miller LLP 131 Oliver Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02110 Stephen V. Miller, Esq. 617-946-4600

#### **Architect:**

Roche-Christopher Architecture LLC 415 Neponset Avenue Dorchester, MA 02122 William Christopher 617-282-0030

East Boston, Massachusetts

#### **Project Description**

Located at 917 Bennington Street in Boston's East Boston neighborhood, the proposed project seeks to remove an existing funeral home and features the construction of a new five (5) story, 45 unit residential building with on site parking and related improvements in open space, landscaping, and vehicular and pedestrian access to the site (the "Proposed Project"). The Proposed Project will consist of 45 residential rental units with 27 covered parking spaces and a roof deck. The existing funeral home to be removed at the site has no historic or architectural significance to the surrounding neighborhood.

The new residential building will be approximately 49,775 gross square feet of building, with 45 residential rental units on four (4) levels of building above a parking garage. Seven (7) of the residential units will be designated affordable. The building will be architecturally designed to complement the neighborhood's character and unique elements. The trash storage will be located within the parking garage.

The following is a synopsis of the unit square footage and mix of unit types within the new building:

#### **Unit Mix**

First Floor

Unit 1 (641 sq. ft.)	1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
Unit 2 (903 sq. ft.)	2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
Unit 3 (837 sq. ft.)	1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
Second Floor, Third Floor, & Fourth Floor	
Unit 1 (3 units at 462 sq. ft.)	Studio, 1 Bathroom
Unit 2 (3 units at 451 sq. ft.)	Studio, 1 Bathroom
Unit 3 (3 units at 802 sq. ft.)	1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
Unit 4 (3 units at 1,393 sq. ft.)	2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
Unit 5 (3 units at 1,393 sq. ft.)	2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
Unit 6 (3 units at 1,393 sq. ft.)	2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
Unit 7 (3 units at 1,396 sq. ft.)	2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
Unit 8 (3 units at 802 sq. ft.)	1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
Unit 9 (3 units at 451 sq. ft.)	Studio, 1 Bathroom
Unit 10 (3 units at 462 sq. ft.)	Studio, 1 Bathroom
Unit 11 (3 units at 846 sq. ft.)	2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
Unit 12 (3 units at 846 sq. ft.)	2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms

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<u>Fifth Floor</u>	
Unit 1 (554 sq. ft.)	Studio, 1 Bathroom
Unit 2 (923 sq. ft.)	1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
Unit 3 (940 sq. ft.)	1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
Unit 4 (940 sq. ft.)	1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
Unit 5 (923 sq. ft.)	1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
Unit 6 (554 sq. ft.)	Studio, 1 Bathroom

#### Project Site/ Neighborhood Context

Located along Bennington Street in the Orient Heights section of East Boston, the Proposed Project site consists of approximately 16,153 square feet of land with direct vehicular and pedestrian access from Bennington Street. The uses in the immediate area are primarily commercial buildings with residential buildings located up the street from the Proposed Project.

#### Public Benefits: Affordable Housing and Job Creation

The project will provide much-needed residential rental housing in a manner that is consistent with and complimentary to the surrounding neighborhood, thereby enhancing the residential nature of the community. The rehabilitation and conversion of this property into much-needed residential housing will also designate seven (7) of the residential units as affordable. In 2003, Mayor Menino announced the results of the highly successful *Leading the Way* initiative in which 7,913 new housing units were permitted exceeding the goal of 7,500 new housing units. In 2004 Mayor Menino launched a new housing plan – *Leading the Way II*. The new housing plan is a four year campaign that calls for the production of 10,000 new housing units. So far under the new plan, 10,484 new units of housing have been permitted, 2,111 of which are affordable. The proposed project will continue to build upon Mayor Menino's *Leading the Way II* initiative by creating new housing units.

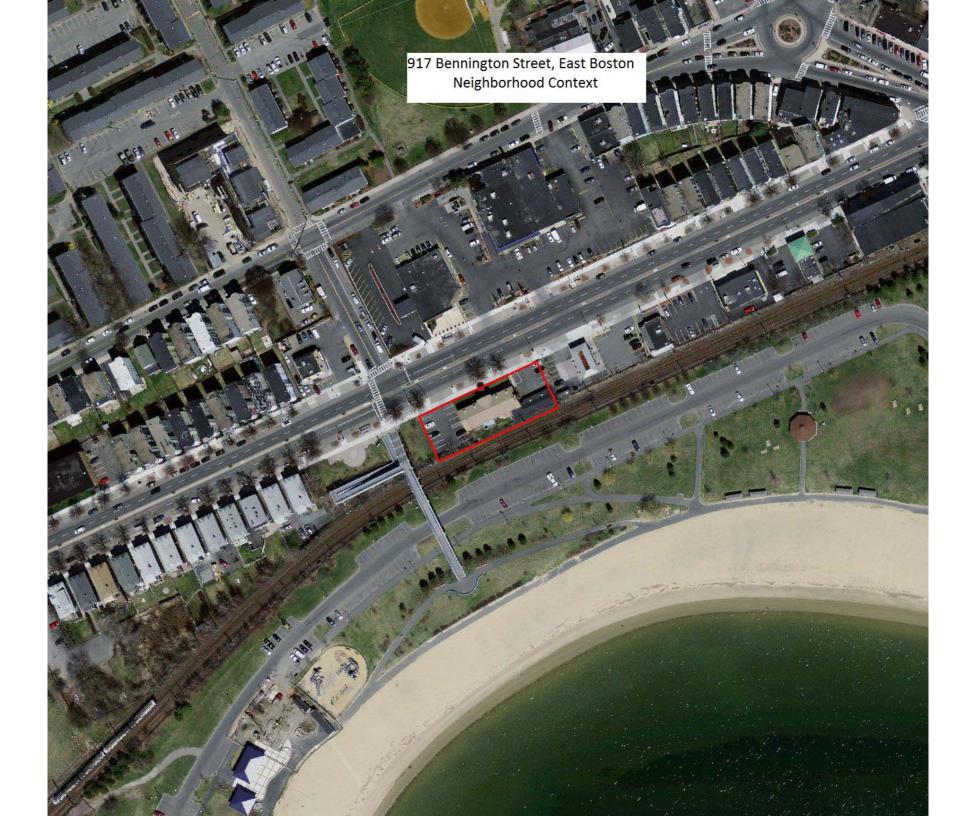
In addition to the creation of housing and designation of certain affordable units, the proposed project will create a number of construction jobs as well.

#### Traffic, Parking and Vehicular and Pedestrian Access

As part of the proposed project, the new residential building will include off-street parking for 27 vehicles in order to mitigate potential parking and traffic issues associated with the project. The project site itself will be redeveloped with improvements in vehicular and pedestrian access to assure proper public safety and appropriate design.

East Boston, Massachusetts

Additionally, the project's close proximity to public transportation, including both rapid transit options at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's ("MBTA") stations and ready access to numerous bus lines, help to further alleviate any potential negative impact on parking and traffic. In particular, the project site is within walking distance from Orient Heights Station of the MBTA's Blue Line and Bus Routes providing service options within the neighborhood and to points in downtown Boston. This close proximity to mass transit will help to mitigate any potential traffic impacts from the creation of the new housing units and also further the City's goal of promoting transit oriented development.



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## **Zoning Analysis**

District: East Boston Neighborhood District – Neighborhood Shopping Subdistrict (NS)

Uses: Multi-family dwelling is an allowed use.

Setbacks:	Required:	Provided:
Front Yard:	0'	2'11''
Side Yard:	0'	0'
Rear Yard:	20'	2'0''

FAR Allowed: 1.0 FAR Provided: 3.08

Site Area: 16,153 sq. ft.

Total Building Area Allowed: 16,153 sq. ft. Total Building Area Provided: **49,775 sq. ft.** 

Height Allowed: 35' Height Provided: 49'

Parking spaces required: 2.0 spaces/dwelling unit required for 10 or more units (38 market rate residential units

requires 76 spaces)

.7 spaces/affordable dwelling unit (7 affordable residential units requires 3 (3.4)

spaces)

79 total required spaces.

Parking spaces provided: 27 spaces

Open Space Required: 2,250 sq. ft. (50 sq. ft. per unit X 45 units)

Open Space Provided: 4,370 sq. ft.

East Boston, Massachusetts

## Community Outreach and Anticipated Permits/Approvals

Pursuant to the requirements of Small Project Review under Article 80 of the Boston Zoning Code, the proposed project shall undergo public comment and community process. The proponent has already conducted significant community outreach with both the local elected officials, its direct abutters and the local neighborhood organization, the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council. Specifically, a public meeting was held with the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council on September 16, 2013 and as a result of this extensive outreach, certain modifications to the building have been made to improve the design of the building and alleviate certain neighborhood concerns.

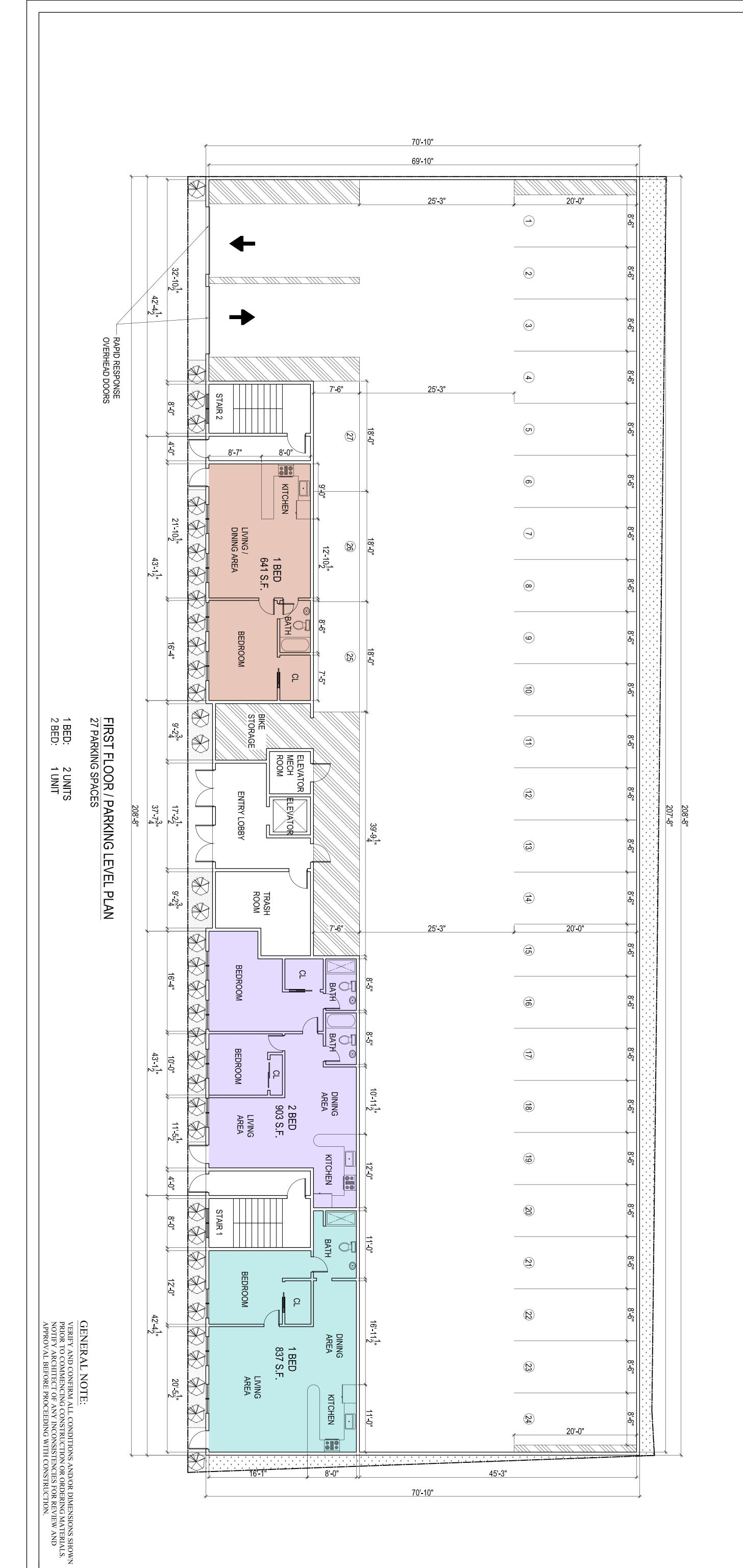
#### **Anticipated Permits and Approvals**

The table below lists the public permits and approvals that are anticipated to be required for the project.

AGE	AGENCY		APPROVAL		
City	Boston Redevelopment Authority	•	Article 80 Small Project Review Application		
	Boston Transportation Department	•	Construction Management Plan (if required)		
	Boston Water and Sewer Commission	•	Site Plan approval for water and sewer connections		
	Public Improvement Commission	•	Specific repair plan approval Earth Retention System (if required)		
	Zoning Board of Appeals	<b>*</b>	Variances & Conditional Use		
	Boston Public Works Department	<b>*</b>	Curb Cut Permit (if required)		
	Boston Parks Department	<b>*</b>	Proximity to Parkland (if required)		

East Boston, Massachusetts

## Appendix A: Architectural Plans and Elevations



(ROOF DECK & BALCONIES)

REQUIRED

NONE

NONE

1.0

35'-0"

XX

NONE

NONE

20'
F. PER UNIT x 45 = 2 PROPOSED
16,153 S.F.
211' 48'
211.48'
211.48'
3.08 (49,775 S)
49'-0"
2'-11 -

UNIT LAYOUTS:
(14) STUDIO W/ 1 BATH UNITS
(12) 1 BEDROOM W/ 1 BATH UNITS
(19) 2 BEDROOMS W/ 2 BATH UNITS
45 TOTAL UNITS

ZONING DISTRICT
EXISTING USE
PROPOSED USE
LOT SIZE

EAST BOSTON / NS FUNERAL HOME 45 RESIDENTIAL UNITS 16,153 S.F.

EAST BOSTON, MA

**ZONING REVEIW** 

917 BENNINGTON STREET

**TABLE** 

DIMENSIONAL

REGUALTIONS

27 PARKING SPACES PROVIDED

FIRST FL / PARKING LEVEL:
SECOND FL:
THIRD FL:
FOURTH FL:
FIFTH FLOOR:
TOTAL

3,516 GROSS SQ. FT. <sup>±</sup>
13,038 GROSS SQ. FT. <sup>±</sup>
13,038 GROSS SQ. FT. <sup>±</sup>
13,038 GROSS SQ. FT. <sup>±</sup>
7,145 GROSS SQ. FT. <sup>±</sup>
49,775 GROSS SQ. FT. <sup>±</sup>

PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR / PARKING LEVEL PLAN

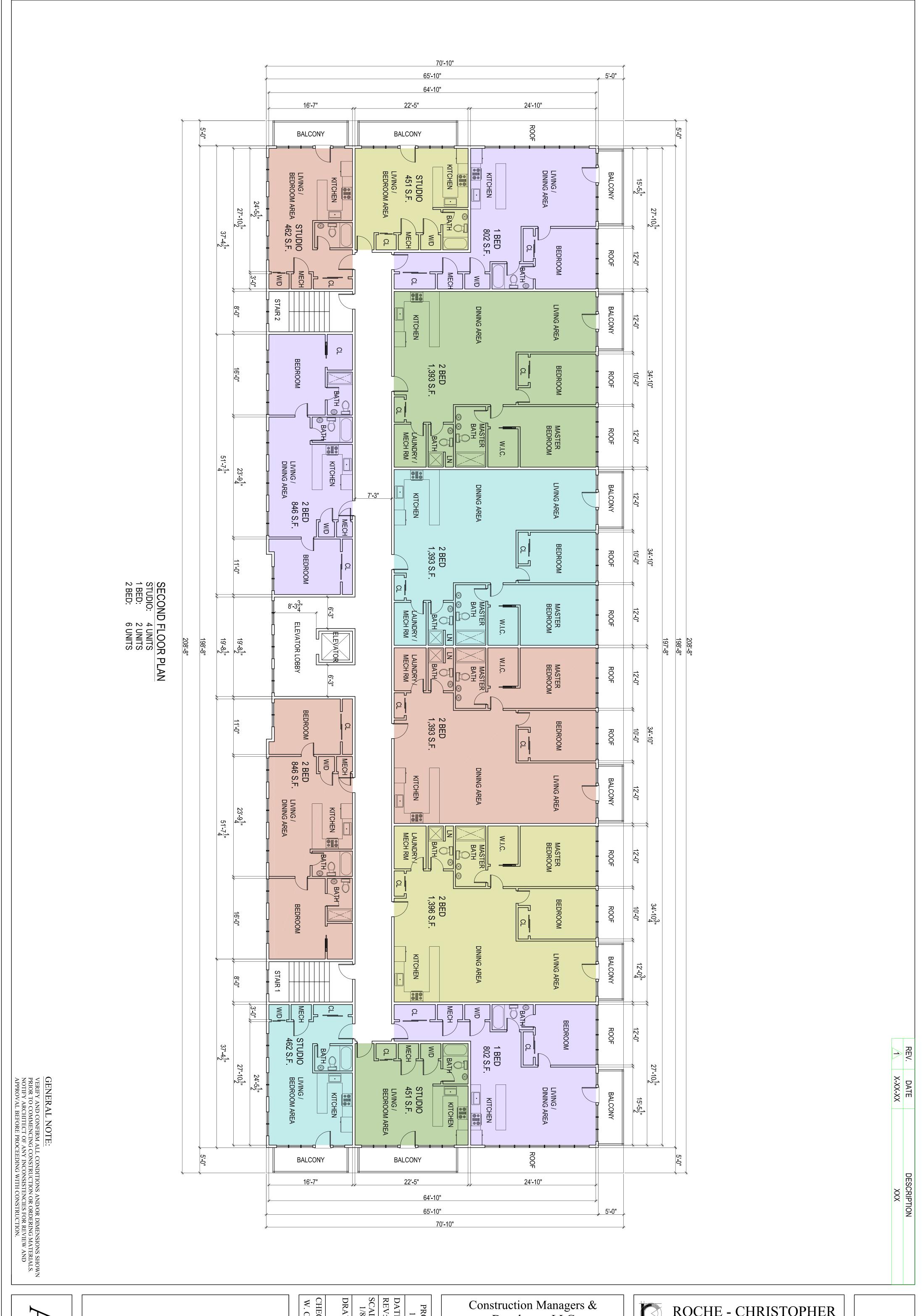
CHECKED BY: W. Christopher DATE: 9-11-13 REV: 10-24-13 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" DRAWN BY: PROJECT # 13-102

Construction Managers & Developers LLC 917 Bennington Street East Boston, Ma 02128



Dorchester, Massachusetts 02122

Telephone: 617-282-0030 Fax: 617-282-1080



PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN

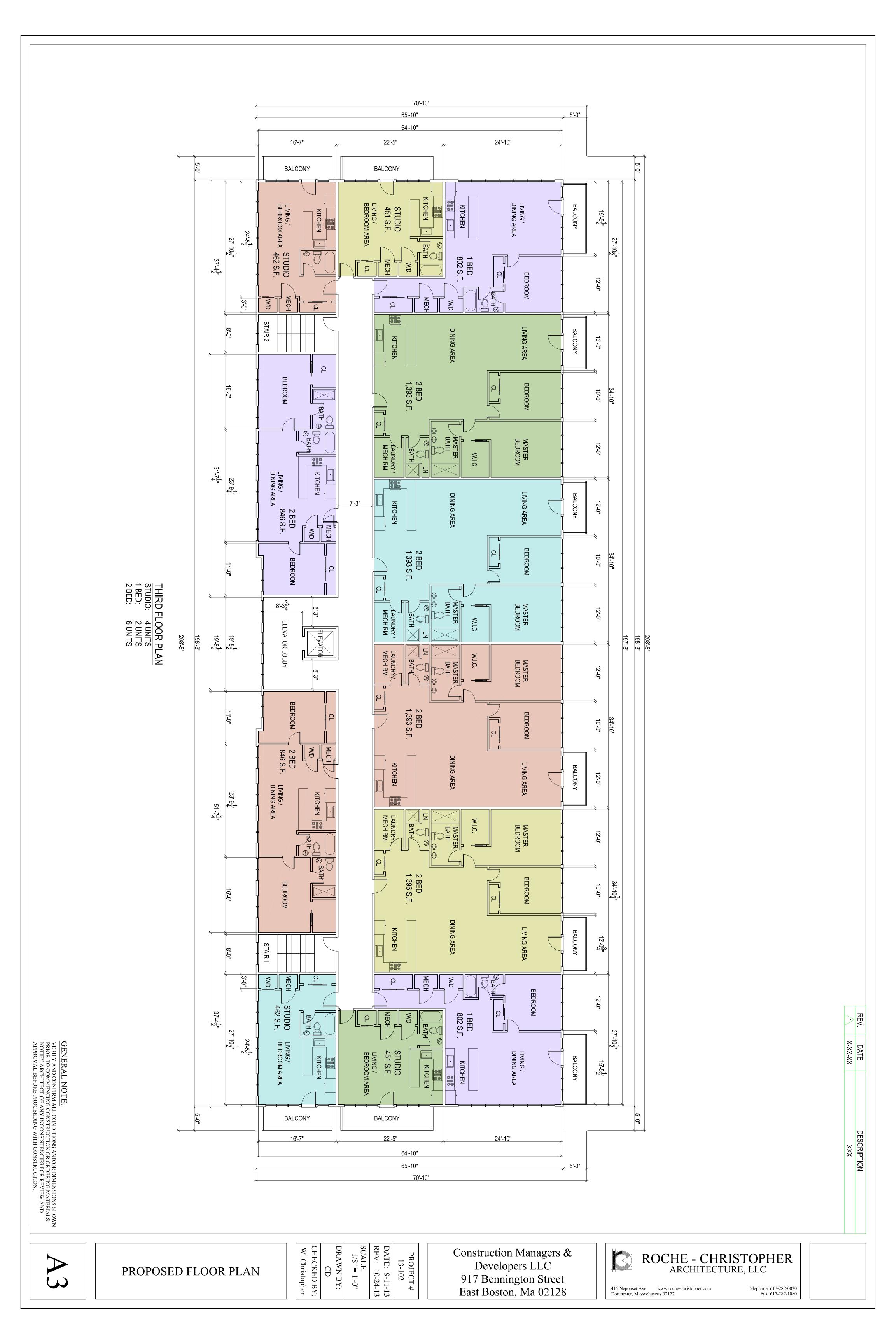
DATE: 9-11-13 REV: 10-24-13 CHECKED BY: W. Christopher SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" DRAWN BY: PROJECT # 13-102

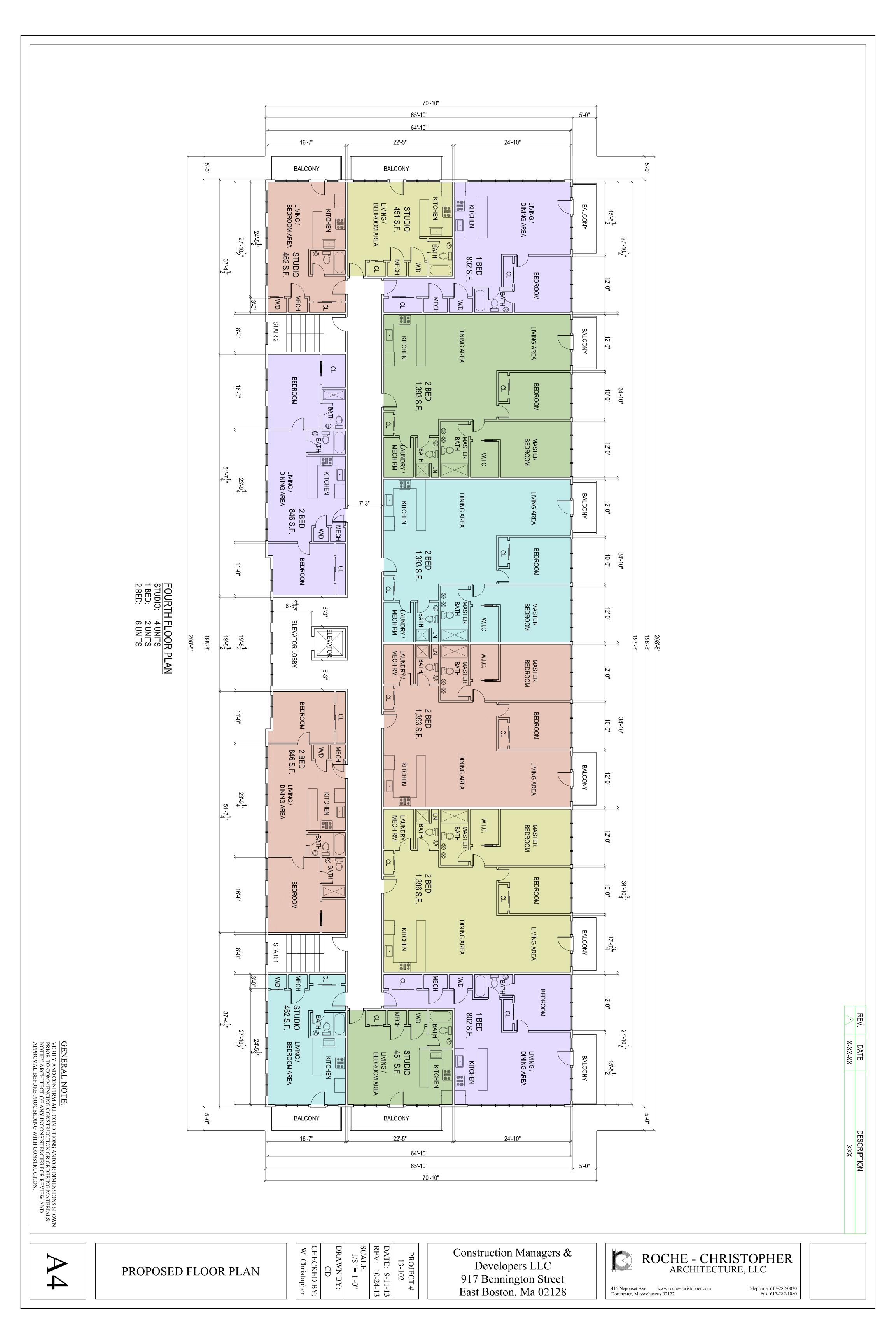
Developers LLC 917 Bennington Street East Boston, Ma 02128

ROCHE - CHRISTOPHER ARCHITECTURE, LLC 415 Neponset Ave. www.roche-christopher.com

Dorchester, Massachusetts 02122

Telephone: 617-282-0030 Fax: 617-282-1080





BATH

© © □ BEDROOM 12'-0" WIC KITCHEN 22'-5" 1 BED 940 S.F. BATH

© © BEDROOM 8'**-**3<sup>3</sup><sub>4</sub>" 12'-0" W.I.C. ELEVATOR LOBBY WIC. BEDROOM BATH 12'-0" 14'-8<u>3</u>" DECK  $34'-6\frac{3}{4}$ " 1 BED 940 S.F. LIVING / DINING AREA 22'-6<u>7</u>" KITCHEN (SOCIETY) WIC. BEDROOM BATH © 12'-0" LIVING / DINING AREA 22'-5<u>3</u>" KITCHEN STAIR 1 12'-5" DECK 20'-8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 19'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " STUDIO 554 S.F. 24'-11<u>1</u>" 17'-1" 6'-3" 27'-0" 17'-7" 65'-10"

65'-10"

W/D MECH

KITCHEN

27'-0"

STUDIO 554 S.F.

12'-0"

DECK
20'-11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"
19'-10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"

22'-5"

6'-3"

17'-7" 16'-7"

12'-5"

FIFTH FLOOR PLAN STUDIO: 2 UNITS 1 BED: 4 UNITS

STAIR 2

GENERAL NOTE:

VERIFY AND CONFIRM ALL CONDITIONS AND/OR DIMENSIONS SHOWN PRIOR TO COMMENCING CONSTRUCTION OR ORDERING MATERIALS. NOTIFY ARCHITECT OF ANY INCONSISTENCIES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH CONSTRUCTION.

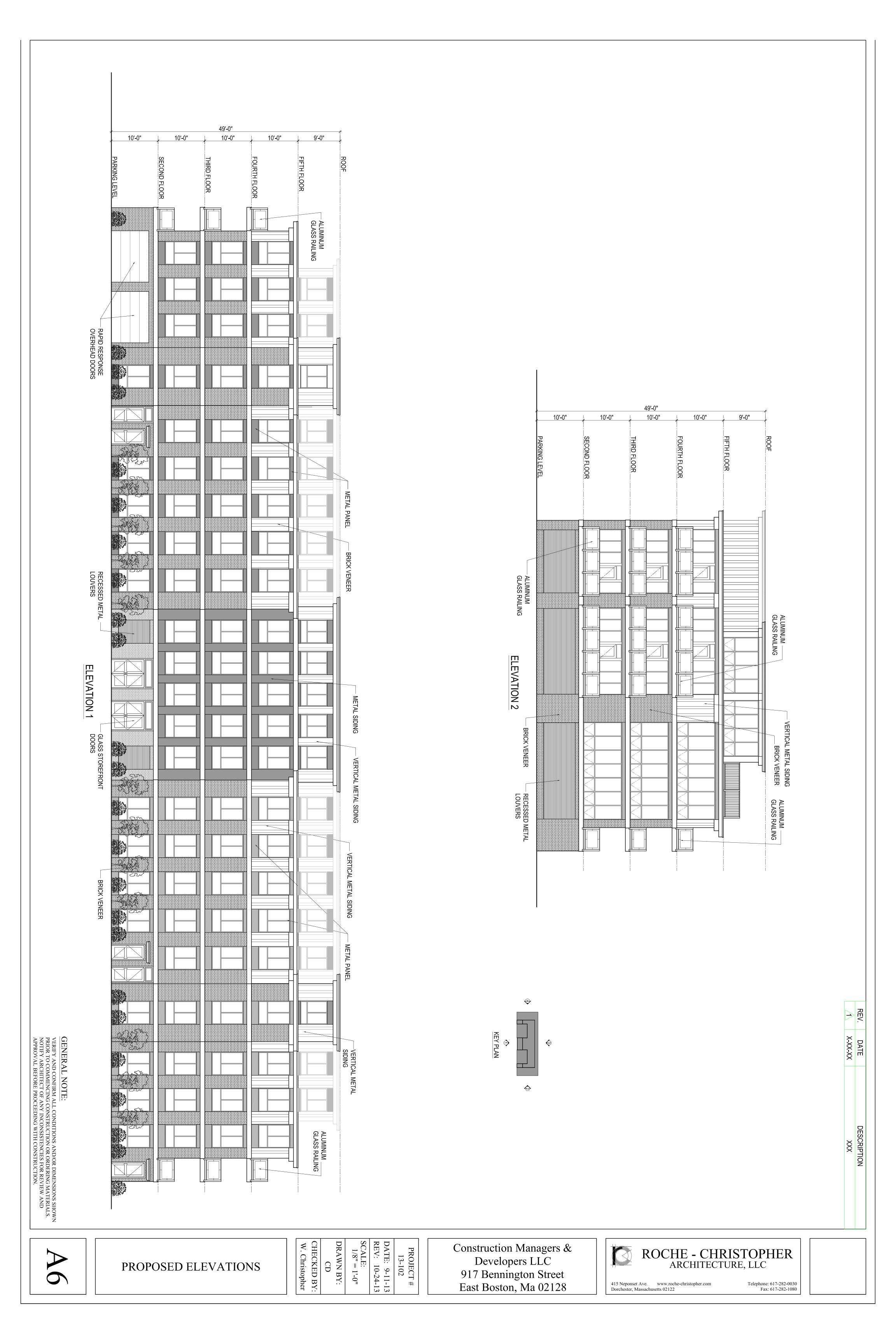
PROPOSED ROOF PLAN

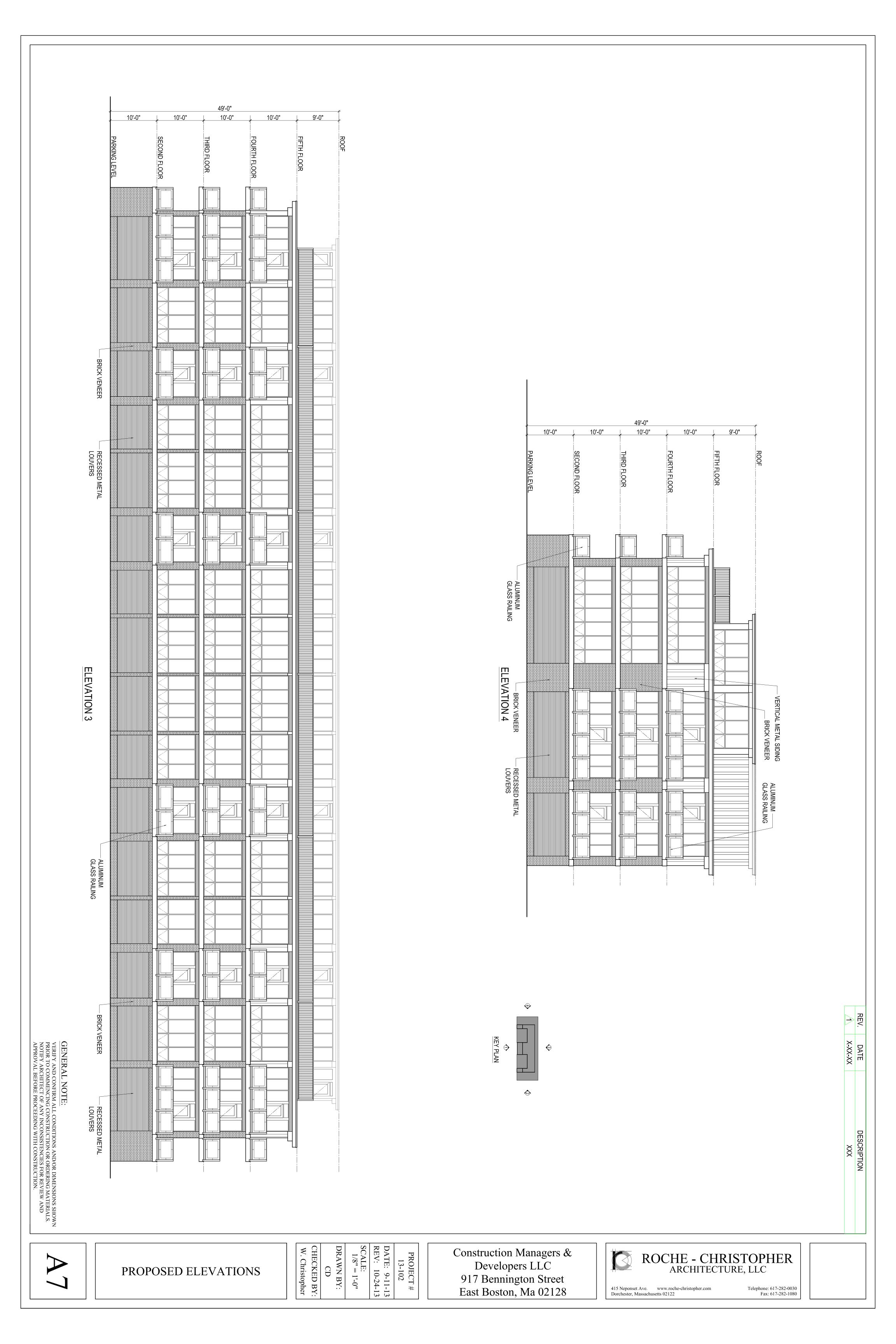
DATE: 9-11-13 REV: 10-24-13 CHECKED BY: W. Christopher SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" DRAWN BY: PROJECT # 13-102

Construction Managers & Developers LLC 917 Bennington Street East Boston, Ma 02128

ROCHE - CHRISTOPHER ARCHITECTURE, LLC

415 Neponset Ave. www.roche-christopher.com Dorchester, Massachusetts 02122 Telephone: 617-282-0030 Fax: 617-282-1080





East Boston, Massachusetts

## Appendix B: Permitting Applications and Appeals

(See attached ISD Zoning Code Refusal and Appeal regarding Permit Application # ERT276111.)

This form must be completed and signed by the owner-of-record, their attorney and/or authorized agent. If form is not signed by property owner, please attach a signed letter of authorization designating the authorized agent.



\$900
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FAX (617) 946-4624

	APPEAL		@	49cc	<b>,</b>
315	under Boston Zoning	Code		149	
CORDITA AD			7.	249	
CAN DO	77	Managhan	October 11		}
	Boston,	Massachuse	::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::		
To the Board of Appeal in the Inspection  The undersigned, being	T1 4 41 4	Agent			
The undersigned, being	The Owner(s) or autho	orized agent			
917	Bennington Street	1		Boston / NS	
of the lot atnumber	street	ward	di	istrict	69-1-8
hereby appeal(s) under St. 1956, c. 66	55, s. 8, to the Board of Appeal	in the Inspec	ctional Services	Department of the	City
of Boston the action taken by Inspect	ional Services Commissioner	as outlined i	n the attached r	efusal letter.	
DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE REAS	ON(S) FOR THIS APPEAL				
The appeal seeks permission to dem	olish an existing funeral home	e and const	ruct a new, four	r (4) story residenti	ial
building with thirty nine (39) resider					
STATE REASONS FOR THIS PROP Allowance of the within appeal will or residential building appropriate in si within appeal will bring new residen	enable the Appellant to revita ize and scope for this location	on Benning	gton Street. Fu	rther, allowance of	fthe
PROVIDE REASONS WHY BOARI	O SHOULD GRANT RELIEF	,			
Appellant submits that the Board sh	ould grant the requested relie	ef, as this ap	peal seeks to re	easonably constru	ct a
new building at the premises, replace	cing a commercial business w	ith a more a	ppropriate resi	idential use at this	
location. The proposed project will	help to accommodate the lar	ge demand	for housing wi	thin the East Bosto	n
community while enhancing an unc	lerutilized site in the neighbo	rhood.			
COMMENTS				on Street Realty Ti	
For these and other reasons more pr	ecisely enumerated	OWNER	by Pat Buono	pane Stylle M	المالية
at the public hearing before the Boa	rd, the Appellant	AUTHOI	RIZED AGENT	Stephen V. Miller	, Esq.
respectfully requests the allowance	of the within appeal.	ADDRES	McDermott	, Quilty & Miller LL Street, 5th Floor	Р
				ssachusetts 02110	
		TELEPH	ONE (617) 94	6-4600	

BD 504a Revised 2005



# Boston Inspectional Services Department Planning and Zening Division

1010 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118 Telephone: (617) 635-5300

Thomas M. Menino Mayor

#### **ZONING CODE REFUSAL**

Gary P. Moccia Inspector of Buildings

ANTHONY VIRGILIO 172 SALEM STREET BOSTON, MA 02113

October 11, 2013

Location:

917 BENNINGTON ST EAST BOSTON, MA 02128

Ward:

01

Zoning District:

East Boston

Zoning Subdistrict:

NS

Appl. #:

ERT276111

EK

Date Filed:

August 19, 2013

Purpose:

Erect building for 40 residential units with 32 parking spaces - Raze existing building -

YOUR APPLICATION REQUIRES RELIEF FROM THE BOARD OF APPEAL AS SAME WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF THE BOSTON ZONING CODE TO WIT: CHAPTER 665, ACTS OF 1956 AS AMENDED:

Violation	Violation Description	Violation Comments
Art. 53 Sec. 52	Roof Structure Restrictions	
Art. 53, Section 56 **	Off-Street Parking Insufficient	Should this application be considered small project review parking insufficient would apply
Article 53 Section 12	Dimensional regulations	Rear yard insufficient
Article 53 Section 12	Dimensional regulations	Height exessive
Article 53 Section 12	Dimensional regulations	Floor area ratio exessive
Article 53 Section 12	Dimensional regulations	Front yard insufficient,note 3
Notes		This Project will require an Article 80 Review. This BRA Review will be either a Small or Large Project review depending on if the first floor level is viewed as "Gross Floor Area" or not.
Notes		A building code review will be conpleted after the BOA process has been completed an a full set of construction documents has been received

#### ANTHONY VIRGILIO 172 SALEM STREET BOSTON, MA 02113

October 11, 2013

Location:

917 BENNINGTON ST EAST BOSTON, MA 02128

Ward:

01

**Zoning District:** 

East Boston

**Zoning Subdistrict:** 

NS

Appl. #:
Date Filed:

ERT276111 August 19, 2013

Purpose:

Erect building for 40 residential units with 32 parking spaces - Raze existing building -

THIS DECISION MAY BE APPEALED TO THE BOARD OF APPEAL WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 665 OF THE ACTS OF 1956, AS AMENDED. APPLICATIONS NOT APPEALED WITHIN THAT TIME PERIOD WILL BE DEEMED ABANDONED. IF YOU HAVE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NEIGHBORHOOD PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AT 617-635-3485.

Kevin Yetman (617)961-3246 for the Commissioner

Refusal of a permit may be appealed to the Board of Appeal within 45 days. Chapter 802, Acts of 1972, and Chapter 656, Acts of 1956, Section 19.