



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MARTIN J. WALSH

February 22, 2016

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval a City Council Order considering the extension of certain powers and responsibilities related to Boston's urban renewal program. Since its inception, urban renewal has played an important role in shaping Boston's successful growth. While urban renewal strategies of decades past resulted in the destruction of communities such as the original West End, Boston has learned from its mistakes and consequently has refined the use of these tools entirely.

As a result of the public and private investments that urban renewal helps to catalyze, Boston is among the most attractive cities in the nation. We are a destination for global businesses and new residents that are lured by our thriving neighborhoods, welcoming parks, bustling waterfront, and vibrant downtown.

It is not always obvious, but urban renewal is an essential part of our success. In order to stay competitive and to continue to spur economic development, the City of Boston must maintain these tools. With our population expected to exceed 700,000 by 2030, we have an obligation to utilize urban renewal in a responsible manner that continues to promote affordable housing, open space, and the redevelopment of underutilized parcels in our neighborhoods.

As you are aware, the Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA") has held four working sessions with the City Council and completed a year-long public process to engage the community on this issue.

I urge the approval of this City Council Order to promote economic development throughout Boston and to protect the community development tools that ensure livable, vibrant neighborhoods for all.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor of Boston

**CITY OF BOSTON**  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**AN ORDER REGARDING THE  
PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

- WHEREAS*, The City of Boston has worked tirelessly to promote the sound growth and development of the neighborhoods and provide places for Boston's residents to live, work, and recreate; and
- WHEREAS*, The results of this activity have been the creation of new homes and businesses, as well as new parks, schools, and other public facilities, leading to Boston's reputation as one of the world's most vibrant and livable cities; and
- WHEREAS*, While much progress has been made, there are many vacant and underutilized parcels; and
- WHEREAS*, The City's urban renewal program has effectuated great change in the City's central business district and neighborhoods, creating new opportunities for many of Boston's residents, and the urban renewal program is the appropriate method for redeveloping vacant and underutilized parcels; and
- WHEREAS*, The City of Boston maintains sixteen (16) active urban renewal plans originally approved by the Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA"), the Boston City Council, and the Mayor of Boston between 1957 and 1980; and
- WHEREAS*, Federal funding for urban renewal was eliminated in the early 1970s, leaving little public funding to complete the goals and objectives of the plans; and
- WHEREAS*, New England suffered a number of economic downturns in the intervening time, including the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s; and
- WHEREAS*, Despite the best efforts of the City of Boston and the BRA, several of the plans' renewal actions, design objectives, and other purposes remain incomplete; and
- WHEREAS*, By their provisions, the plans and the powers conferred and programs set forth will terminate between 2016 and 2020 unless so extended; and
- WHEREAS*, the BRA seeks a ten (10) year extension for fourteen (14) of the active urban renewal plans that are set to expire on April 30, 2016; and

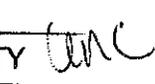
*WHEREAS,* Each plan includes within its provisions the ability to modify said termination date and extend said plan; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

*ORDERED,* That the City Council does hereby approve the extension of the term of the urban renewal plans listed below, to April 30, 2026:

1. Brunswick-King Urban Renewal Plan
2. Campus High School Urban Renewal Plan
3. Central Business District Boylston-Essex Plan
4. Central Business District School-Franklin Plan
5. Central Business District South Station Plan
6. Charlestown Urban Renewal Plan
7. Downtown Waterfront – Faneuil Hall Urban Renewal Plan
8. Fenway Urban Renewal Plan
9. Government Center Urban Renewal Plan
10. Kittredge Square Urban Renewal Plan
11. Park Plaza Urban Renewal Plan
12. South Cove Urban Renewal Plan
13. South End Urban Renewal Plan
14. Washington Park Urban Renewal Plan

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT  
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN  
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

BY Eugene L. O'Flaherty   
EUGENE L. O'FLAHERTY  
CORPORATION COUNSEL



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

[www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil](http://www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil)  
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## COMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE

February 26, 2016

The Boston City Council's **Committee on Planning and Development** will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Christopher Iannella A. Chamber.

The subject of the hearing is:

**Docket #0292-Message and order for your approval a City Council Order considering the extension of certain powers and responsibilities related to the Boston urban renewal program.**

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Martin J. Walsh and referred to the committee on February 24, 2016.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend and testify. If you have not testified at a Council hearing before, please arrive (5) minutes before the call of the hearing to sign up and become familiar with the hearing format, testimony locations, and sound system. Please bring fifteen (15) copies of any written documentation you wish to present at the hearing. If you know of others who may be interested in this hearing, kindly notify them.

Written comments may be made part of the record and available to all Councilors by sending them by email, fax, or mail to arrive before the hearing, please use the information below.

NOTICE: The Boston City Council may have a quorum in attendance due to standing committees of the City Council consisting of both voting and non-voting members. However, members attending this duly posted meeting are participating and deliberating only in conjunction with the business of the standing committee.

For the Committee:

Bill Linehan, Chair  
Committee on Planning and Development

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Liaison: Cora Montrond  
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Broadcast: Comcast 8/RCN 82 date/time: Live  
View Live or On Demand Webcast at: [www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil/live.asp](http://www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil/live.asp)