



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN

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

2016 APR -14 3:13

BRA

- 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 in 2016 unless so extended; and

WHEREAS, The BRA seeks a 6 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, In recognition of the City Council's authority in connection with the aforementioned urban renewal plan extensions, the BRA Director has agreed to seek BRA Board approval at the BRA's Board Meeting on April 14, 2016, to implement a series of procedural changes with respect to urban renewal plans in Boston, including: (1) committing to the Action Plan that is outlined below; (2) notifying the City Council via a filing of the minor modification notice by the BRA to the City Clerk in addition to the notifications that currently are in place; (3) providing the City Council with a digital copy of the minor modification notice via email transmission; (4) a commitment to testify at any hearing the City Council chooses to hold regarding a proposed minor modification to an urban renewal plan within the thirty day (30) notice period, with the protocol outlined below; (5) providing the City Council with a thirty (30) day notice of any proposed eminent domain taking of city-owned land in excess of 5,000 square feet; (6) providing the City Council with a thirty (30) day notice of any proposed eminent domain taking of properties occupied by private residents or private businesses; (7) meeting with the City Council twice per calendar year to provide updates on urban renewal activity; and (8) submitting an annual report of urban renewal activity to all members of the City Council; and

Action Plan items:

1. Extend the life of the notice and information page on the BRA website or related website beyond any approval of urban renewal extension as an information conduit for urban renewal activities by the BRA, including notice of all minor and major modifications.
2. Compile an inventory of all land disposition agreements ("LDAs") within urban renewal areas and make the same publicly available. The BRA's priority for the LDA inventory is the South End and Charlestown. The new digital database of LDAs will be organized in such a way to complement the BRA's ongoing efforts to modernize its ongoing management of property leases and land assets.
3. The BRA will evaluate and organize BRA-owned land.
4. The BRA will review the boundaries of plan areas to determine where modifications may be warranted, prioritizing the South End and Charlestown.

5. The BRA commits to exploring the creation of new urban renewal plan areas, including Mattapan.
6. The BRA will review the existing procedures surrounding disposition of BRA-owned land and revise protocols for land disposition accordingly, in such a manner that reflects community planning goals and priorities.
7. As part of the annual update, the BRA will continue to provide updates on progress of the completion of the urban renewal plans.

Outline of minor modification hearing protocol:

1. The BRA will file any minor modification notice with the City Clerk to be read into the agenda of the next City Council meeting. In accordance with the Rules of the City Council, the President can refer the matter to the appropriate committee which may hold a hearing on the notice and issue a non-binding report (the "Committee Report") to be included in the packet submitted to the BRA Board on the minor modification. Said report, if any, must be received within thirty (30) days of the time the notice is filed with the City Clerk.
2. Upon adoption of the Committee Report, the President of the City Council may file the Committee Report with the Executive Secretary of the BRA for transmittal to BRA Board members prior to any vote on the minor modification notice.

ORDERED, That the City Council does hereby approve the extension of the term of the urban renewal plans listed below, to April 30, 2022, subject to the BRA action as outlined above:

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

In City Council March 23, 2016. Passed; yeas 10, nays 3 (Jackson, Pressley, Zakim)
Approved by the Mayor March 28, 2016.

Attest:



Maureen Feeney
City Clerk