

MEMORANDUM

JUNE 9, 2016

TO: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND
BRIAN P. GOLDEN, DIRECTOR

FROM: MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT
REVIEW/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
KRISTIN KARA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS
COREY ZEHNGEBOT, SENIOR ARCHITECT/URBAN DESIGNER

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT A MINOR MODIFICATION
TO CERTAIN URBAN RENEWAL PLANS TO EXTEND THE PERIOD
OF EACH PLAN FOR SIXTY (60) DAYS IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE
PROCESS TO EXECUTE A LONGER-TERM EXTENSION OF CERTAIN
URBAN RENEWAL PLANS

SUMMARY: This memorandum requests authorization for the Boston Redevelopment Authority (“BRA”) to approve a Minor Modification to certain urban renewal plans with respect to the extension of each plan period for sixty (60) days in order to complete the process to execute a longer-term extension of certain urban renewal plans.

BACKGROUND

Today, the City of Boston (“City”) has sixteen (16) remaining urban renewal plans and associated areas wherein the Boston Redevelopment Authority (“BRA”) holds certain powers and responsibilities to effect change. Over the past year, the BRA has gone to great lengths to foster a robust public conversation about urban renewal. The BRA has sought feedback directly from community members about how urban renewal can best be used in the future. Highlights of the BRA’s community process include: twelve (12) large public meetings in different neighborhoods since March 2015; five (5) neighborhood Q&A sessions in partnership with the City Hall To Go truck in May 2015; an exhibition about past, present, and future of urban renewal in conjunction with West End Museum; and nearly 100 opportunities for engagement. Members of an Urban Renewal Task Force representing the neighborhoods where urban renewal plans are active were also involved at multiple points throughout the public outreach process.

Following the year-long public process, on December 10, 2015, a public hearing before the BRA Board was held and the BRA Board adopted a Resolution to extend fourteen (14) of the City’s urban renewal plans to April 30, 2026. In connection with the

extension of the plans, the BRA has, in consultation with the Mayor's Office, engaged in a lengthy dialogue with the Boston City Council. The BRA presented at an information session, two briefings, and one hearing of a committee of the Boston City Council. These sessions were open to the public. Additionally, on March 3, 2016, the Boston City Council held a public hearing regarding the proposed extension of the urban renewal plans. To continue the discussion of the proposed extension, on March 8, 2016 the Boston City Council held a working session. Subsequently, the Boston City Council, by vote duly taken and recorded on March 23, 2016, approved the extension of fourteen (14) of Boston's urban renewal plans for a period of six (6) years, with a termination date of April 30, 2022. Subsequently, Mayor Martin J. Walsh approved the extension of the urban renewal plans on March 28, 2016.

Because the Boston City Council's and Mayor Walsh's approval of the extension was for six (6) years, and not for ten (10) years, the Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION OF THE BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RE: MODIFICATION TO CERTAIN URBAN RENEWAL PLANS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON", that was adopted by the BRA Board on December 10, 2015, was rescinded by the BRA Board on April 14, 2016.

On April 14, 2016, the BRA Board adopted a new Resolution that (1) reflected both the reduced timeframe of the extension to six (6) years and the new termination dates that were approved by the Boston City Council and Mayor Walsh, and (2) included a sixty (60) day, short-term extension. Subsequently the Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD") approved the sixty (60) day extension, which terminates on June 29, 2016.

SECOND SHORT-TERM EXTENSION

A second, sixty (60) day, short-term extension is being requested to provide additional time for the BRA to continue to work with the DHCD regarding the six (6) year, long term extension. Without this second, short-term extension, the urban renewal plans are set to expire on June 29, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

In order to allow additional time necessary to fully engage with the DHCD regarding the proposed longer-term, six (6) year extension of certain urban renewal plans, BRA staff recommends at this time that a second, short-term, sixty (60) day extension for the plans - which expire on June 29, 2016 - be approved in order to maintain the plans as active urban renewal projects.

An appropriate vote follows:

VOTED: That the Boston Redevelopment Authority adopt the attached resolution entitled "RESOLUTION OF THE BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RE: MODIFICATION TO CERTAIN URBAN RENEWAL PLANS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, JUNE 9, 2016".