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October 17, 2013

John Fitzgerald  
Boston Redevelopment Authority  
One City Hall Square  
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Re: Boston Garden Expanded Project Notification Form

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald:

I am pleased to comment in support of the Expanded Project Notification Form dated September 6, 2013 regarding the Boston Garden project. We believe that the proposed project will provide a major boost to the streetscape of Causeway Street as well as the entire neighborhood around North Station. This neighborhood, which is diverse and rich in history, has remained “incomplete” for over 20 years, waiting for a transformative development to complete the street, unlock the latent potential, and help the entire area to flourish. This is such a project. It will join other recent development projects in the area to further enhance the neighborhood as an entertainment and retail venue, a thriving office hub, and a growing residential area. The mix of uses on this unique site, along with its highly visible contribution to the skyline, will make it a fitting destination and iconic entry point to the city from the north.

There are no other sites in the city as accessible for all modes of transportation or as appropriate for the major mixed use development that is proposed. The development will transform the current temporary parking lot into a development of over 1.8 million square feet, closely connected to the transit lines of the North Station hub. It will provide an enhanced entrance from Canal Street to the North Station concourse, and traffic improvements will help the adjacent streets to function more efficiently. We expect that traffic will have no adverse impact during periods when there are no events at the Garden. Sidewalks will be widened along Causeway Street to accommodate pedestrians for events and those using the transportation facilities. From a transportation standpoint, implementing this development will provide a win for all modes.

The development will also improve the experience of our citizens supporting our winning teams and major events at the Garden by enlarging the concession areas. A variety of retail and restaurant uses are planned on multiple floors in the development to serve the public in this growing part of the city, including the possibility of locating a long sought supermarket to serve residents in the area.

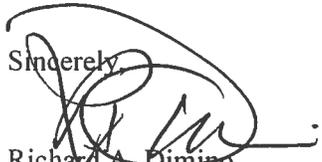
The site will also provide nearly 500 new residential units helping to increase the stock of housing for the city and to provide more activity on the street throughout the day and evening in all seasons. The hotel will also add life to the area and restore a traditional use that has been absent from the area for years.



The project is a prime example of smart growth and transit oriented development. It demonstrates forward thinking with regard to climate change preparedness, for example, by locating mechanical and electrical equipment atop the podium, well above grade. The development will produce an action plan for preventive preparation and action related to severe weather events. Portions of the podium will have a green roof, and the development will have minimal shadow impacts on the area, making the project an environmentally responsible neighbor.

The Project Notification Form thoroughly describes the characteristic of the proposed project, details all aspects of its benefits and impacts, and lays out mitigation of impacts. We enthusiastically support the implementation of this project and urge its approval by the BRA.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Dimino  
President and CEO

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