

150 Staniford Street, #900  
Boston, MA 02114  
December 17, 2015

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

Edward McGuire  
BRA Project Manager  
One City Hall Plaza  
Boston, MA 02201

RE: Government Center Garage Comments

Dear Ed,

I am writing as a resident of West End Place, a mixed-income residential cooperative condominium located in the West End. I am also a long-time member of the Impact Advisory Group for this project.

I was delighted to see the structures presented by HYM for the first two building of this project. They are both very attractive and will be an asset to the communities of the West End, North End, and Beacon Hill. The improvements that will be made to the public spaces around the perimeter of the project will aid in the safety of the community as well as the aesthetics. HYM has said many times that they are concerned with the safety of pedestrians as vehicles exit the public parking garage onto Sudbury Street. The new configuration of the garage exits will be a great improvement on the current situation.

The first residential tower to be built will the step down towards the Haymarket area and the North End which is in keeping with buildings near the Greenway. There will be many residential amenities, such as bicycle storage and retail shops, and the proximity of public transportation, which should entice long-term residents to the building and the community.

The second building is an elegant office tower that will surely become a landmark and a beacon to the adjoining neighborhoods. There is some concern about safety, in light of recent world happenings, pertaining to the glass-walled first floor area but I feel confident that the architects and developer will find a way to make the area secure and keep the airiness it now has in this design.

I would be remiss if I didn't say that I will be delighted to see the portion of the garage that covers Merrimac Street torn down. That aspect of this project alone will be a tremendous improvement to the City and especially to the residents of the West End. It will help knit back together three vibrant neighborhoods in Downtown Boston.

Both CBT Architects, who designed the residential tower, and Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, who designed the office tower, were able to work together to design two distinct buildings that are both elegant and very functional, yet work well together. Each of these buildings will become iconic landmarks for our communities. All involved should be very proud of their designs.

I commend Tom O'Brien and HYM Investment for their foresight in this large undertaking to make this part of Boston a showcase area.

I look forward to continuing to work with HYM, the BRA and the rest of the IAG on this long-term project.

Sincerely,



Jane Forrestall

Cc: Thomas O'Brien, HYM Investments  
Jerome Smith, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services  
Marie Lanza, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services  
Councilor Josh Zakim  
Councilor Sal LaMattina  
Representative Jay Livingstone  
Representative Aaron Michelwitz  
Senator Anthony Petrucci  
Jonathan Greeley, BRA  
Dino DiFronzo  
Jay Walsh, Downtown North Association