

18 April 2019

Mr. Brian Golden
Boston Planning and Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Re: Small Project Article 80 Approval for Leyland Street Supportive Senior Housing

Dear Mr. Golden,

I am writing this letter in support of the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC) in their pursuit of article 80 approval for a new affordable supportive senior housing project in Dorchester. This project, located in the Upham's Corner neighborhood, is an area that has been identified by the Imagine Boston 2030 plan as an area ripe for opportunity and investment and is on the cusp of transformative change. I have lived in the area of Upham's for over 50 years and have been supportive of my community through my past service as a Massachusetts State Representative and in my current role as an At-Large Boston City Councilor.

While investing in a neighborhood that has historically experienced under-investment can bring substantial benefits to the residents of the neighborhood, it also brings with it the potential for gentrification and displacement. Dorchester has already begun to feel the pressures of rising housing prices and gentrification, which is seen through recent projects such as the high-end South Bay Center Mall. The Leyland Street project will ensure that those who are most vulnerable to displacement, such as low-income seniors, can reap the benefits of the project. The Housing Boson 2030 Plan has identified seniors as the largest growing population in Boston, and DBEDC is working hard to ensure that seniors continue to have a place to call home in our growing and changing City.

This project is being developed through a partnership between DBEDC and the Dream Collaborative, which is a minority-owned, Boston based architectural firm. 100% of the project's approximately 42 units are affordable to low income seniors earning 60% of the area median income or below. The project places an emphasis on serving extremely low-income seniors in a supportive environment that promotes health and quality of life. The proposed development will consist of a 5-story building with amenities, such as a library, laundry, parking and multiple gathering spaces to promote social interactions and a sense of community among the residents and the larger community. This project will be a welcome activation of an underutilized community asset.

In conclusion, I believe this project on Leyland Street is vitally necessary in order to take some of the pressure off senior citizens who are seeking affordable housing. As an At-Large Boston City Councilor I wholeheartedly support the development project on Leyland Street, and I applaud the outstanding work of the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC) in supporting senior housing. I hope that this development project is approved swiftly by the BPDA.

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Althea Garrison

Boston City Councilor At-Large

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June 24,2019
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Comment: Created Date	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Opinion	Comments
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					the community. I am a senior and support
					Dorchester Bay. Please make more housing
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