



SHARON DURKAN
OFFICE OF BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 8

January 15, 2025

The Honorable Alex Geourntas
Office of the City Clerk
One City Hall Square, Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

Re: Communication Regarding Docket #0127

Dear Clerk Geourntas,

As Chair of the Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation, I write to you and the rest of the Council body with clarification on Docket #0127, which was a communication from the Landmarks Commission for City Council action on the designation of Boston City Hall. The designation of Boston City Hall as a Boston Landmark was initiated in 2007 after a petition was submitted to the landmarks commission, but it was only last year when it was finally voted to become a designated landmark. Mayor Wu signed the designation on December 12. Importantly, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, since it was not acted upon within thirty days — that date being January 11th — the designation was approved. As you remember, I attempted to pass this in recognition of that deadline being that the previous meeting was the last opportunity to do so. It was however the Council's understanding that we had more time based on erroneous Docket #0127's filing.

While I'm disappointed that we did not have the opportunity to rightfully affirm the building we work in as a Boston landmark, our lack of action had no impact on this important designation. Respectfully as chair of this committee, I see our role as most important when we disagree with designations, which did not seem to be the case in this instance. I know that this designation will be celebrated across the country since this building is architecturally and locally significant. This summer, we will welcome the American Conference on Architecture and Design, where we'll celebrate this designation on a global stage. It's a moment to reflect on how this building has shaped conversations about urban renewal, accessibility, and preservation while serving as a bold architectural and cultural icon.

Finally, after years of debates—even after calls to tear this building down—I am proud that we are preserving and protecting this landmark. Boston City Hall is not just a place—it's an idea, a catalyst, and a home for all who serve our great city.

Sincerely,

Sharon Durkan
Chair, Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation