

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA, ARROYO, BREADON,
COLETTA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA,
MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN**



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE MBTA ARBORWAY YARD BUS FACILITY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS "POLE YARD"

- WHEREAS,** Following the MBTA's announcement of renewed use of the Arborway Yard in Jamaica Plain almost 25 years ago, community members formed the "Community Planning Committee for the Arborway Yard (CPCAY)" to organize resident voices on the project; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2001, the MBTA and City of Boston under the Menino Administration entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which both entities committed to incorporating the existing Department of Public Works (DPW) "Pole Yard" into the Arborway Yard Plan, as well as transferring "no less than 8.0-acres of the Arborway Yard site to the City for community use" as outlined by the CPCAY; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The potential uses of land outlined in the MOU by the CPCAY include "affordable housing, youth recreation, retail, light industrial, the Emerald Necklace Rs-Connector and mixed-use development along Washington St."; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Since the CPCAY has disbanded, the community has continued to advocate for these commitments to be honored through the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) with affordable housing at the center of their mission; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Fall 2022 Arborway Yard plan unveiled by the MBTA followed the commitments outlined in the 2001 MOU in transferring 8.0 acres to the City for community use and integrating the "Pole Yard" into the Arborway Yard facility; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The MBTA's updated Spring 2023 plan broke promises made to the community in the MOU by excluding the DPW site from the Arborway Yard project, pushing the project 1.5 acres into the promised community land for new housing; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The most recent plan dramatically reduces the ability of the neighborhood to introduce what could be thousands of new deeply affordable units while also diminishing the quality of housing with an imposing 7-story wall at the edge of the site; *and*

WHEREAS, The community has called for a return to the 2022 plan that would reinstate the commitment to transferring all 8 acres to the city for transit-oriented development with affordable housing; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the planning process for the MBTA Arborway Yard bus facility and representatives from the MBTA Bus Modernization Program, the Boston Planning and Development Agency, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Department of Public Works and the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, in addition to community advocates and members of the public are invited to testify.