

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AMENDMENT OF COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA Docket #0257, Amended Draft

Docket #0257, as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

8-14.8 Commission on Accountability and Transparency in City Planning

There shall be in the City a commission known as the Commission on Accountability and Transparency in City Planning, hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”, that is independent of the Planning Department, to investigate complaints regarding plans approved by the Mayor and Planning Department, to ensure that approved plans further the City’s goals of achieving environmental resilience, equity and affordability in the City of Boston.

The purpose of the Commission is to provide a single point of entry for individuals with concerns or complaints related to City Planning. The Commission will be tasked with investigating complaints and issuing a report analyzing the project or plan alongside the procedures followed in approving said project or plan.

The Commission shall be comprised of three (3) to five (5) Commissioners, each appointed by the Mayor in partnership with the City Council. The Commissioners shall be residents of Boston. The Commissioners shall be classified as special municipal employees for the purposes of Chapter 268A of the General Laws. The Commissioners shall serve without compensation for their role on the Commission.

The Commission shall have the power to receive, review, and respond to complaints from residents of the City of Boston. Responses should be provided to residents following an investigation of the project plans and procedures followed in the approval of said projects or plans. Responses should be provided within 30 days of receipt of the complaint or within a reasonable amount of time thereafter.

The Commission shall keep records of all complaints and record the following data in a comprehensive annual report to be made publicly available:

1. The number of complaints received, the type of complaints received, and the investigatory status of those complaints;
2. The race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation [if known], and age of the complainants; and
3. The neighborhood of the complainants, alongside the related approved projects

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