



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Planning, Development, & Transportation
Sharon Durkan, Chair

One City Hall Square ♦ 5th Floor ♦ Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ Fax: (617) 635-4203

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

August 19, 2024

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Planning, Development, & Transportation was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0110, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Nancy Russell, as a member of the St. Botolph Architectural Commission for a term expiring on November 10, 2026.

Docket #0111, Message an order for the confirmation of appointment of Jim Kutchin, as a member of the St. Botolph Architectural Commission for a term expiring on November 10, 2026.

Docket #0112, Message an order for the confirmation of appointment of Douglas Miller, as a member of the St. Botolph Architectural Commission for a term expiring on November 10, 2026.

Docket #0154, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Jeffrey Heyne, as a member of the Fort Point Channel Landmark District Commission for a term expiring on January 20, 2027.

Docket #0636, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Paul Raber Umphenour II as an Alternate Member of the Fort Point Channel Landmark District Commission, for a term expiring March 19, 2027.

Docket #0640, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Angela Ward Hyatt as a member of the Highland Park Architectural Conservation District Commission, for a term expiring June 30, 2025.

Docket #0641, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Shamaiah Turner as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal, for a term expiring May 1, 2026.

Docket #0698, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Kevin Ready, as a member of the South End Landmark Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

Docket #0864, Message and order for the confirmation of the reappointment of Alaa Mukahhal, as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring on May 1, 2027.

Docket #0865, Message and order for the confirmation of the reappointment of Kerry Walsh Logue, as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring on November 1, 2025.

Docket #0867, Message and order for the confirmation of the reappointment of Sherry Dong, as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring on May 1, 2026.

Docket #1179, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Jamie McNeil as a member of the Zoning Commission for a term expiring on May 1, 2025.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michele Wu. Dockets #0110, #0111, and #0112 were referred to the Committee on November 15, 2023; Docket #0154 was referred to the Committee on January 24, 2024; Dockets #0636, #0640, and #0641 were referred to the Committee on April 3, 2024; Docket # 0698 was referred to the Committee on April 10, 2024; Docket #0864, #0865, and #0867 was referred to the Committee on May 22, 2024; and Docket #1179 was referred to the Committee on August 7, 2024.

Summary of Legislation

Dockets #0110, #0111, #0112, #0154, #0636, #0640, #0641, #0698, #0864, #0865, #0867, and #1179 are orders for the confirmation of appointments and reappointments to various boards and commissions.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on August 12, 2024 to discuss the filed appointments. Testimony was presented by Joe Cornish, Director, Design Review, Boston Landmark Commission, who expressed his full support and confidence for the people serving on the Commission. The Chair reviewed appointees' experience, qualifications, and desire to serve on their appointed boards and commissions.

The appointees responded to questions from the Chair and other Councilors regarding their qualifications, relevant experience, background, areas of expertise, and on the independence, rationale, and criteria that they would exercise when making decisions. Concerns were raised about coordination among the Zoning Board of Appeal, Boston Planning and Development Agency Board, and Zoning Commission decisions. Appointees expressed commitment to work and review neighborhood plans and zoning changes in order to make informed decisions on the cases before the board, as well as commitment to development review as a means to address the affordable housing and zoning challenges in the City. It was noted that the appointees in Dockets #0154, #0864 and #0865 are no longer interested or able to serve, and so those appointments will be refiled at a later date.

Note: In addition to the dockets to be reported out today, the hearing was also noticed to cover Docket #0107 (Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Peter Sanborn, as a member of the South End Landmark District Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2025) and Docket #0866 (Message and order for the confirmation of the reappointment of Hansy

Better Barraza, as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring on May 1, 2027), however, the appointees were unable to attend. As such, these dockets will remain in committee.

Summary of Amendments:

Docket #0641 requires the correction of a typo in the appointee's name. As corrected, the docket should read: "Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Shamaiah Turner as a member of the Zoning Board of appeal, for a term expiring May 1, 2026."

Committee Chair Recommended Action

Based on the testimony and information presented at the hearing, and having considered the same, I respectfully recommend that action be taken on these dockets as follows:

Dockets #0110, #0111, #0112, #0636, #0640, #0698, #0867, and #1179 OUGHT TO PASS.

Docket #0641 OUGHT TO PASS IN A NEW DRAFT, and

Dockets #0154, #0864 and 0865 OUGHT TO BE PLACED ON FILE.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Durkan".

Sharon Durkan, Chair
Committee on Planning Development, & Transportation