



Boston City Council

ED FLYNN

Councilor - District 2

June 16, 2025

Kairos Shen, Chief of Planning
Boston Planning Department
One City Hall Square, Room 900
Boston, MA 02201

RE: Letter opposing PLAN: Downtown Zoning Amendment

Dear Chief Shen,

I am writing today in opposition of the latest zoning proposal for PLAN: Downtown released on May 29th, 2025. At this time, I have received nearly 200 letters in opposition from neighbors and constituents. In short, City residents and members of the PLAN: Downtown Advisory Group expressed frustration that the latest amendment to allow 700-foot towers in close proximity to Boston Common and Boston Public Garden was a large departure from previous iterations of the plan, as well as concerns on removing height limits across key corridors, a lack of shadow studies and impact analysis, or on-site affordable housing guarantees. Neighbors who worked in partnership with the Boston Planning Department to provide community input over the past six years felt extremely disappointed and a lack of respect with regard to their efforts.

Moreover, given the significant changes from previous draft proposals, Downtown Boston constituents have naturally conveyed significant concerns regarding community process and that the city may be unwilling to provide an additional comment period for neighbors, despite these new developments. It is critical that Downtown Boston neighbors are treated fairly and with respect via a genuine public process to offer their feedback and knowledge as taxpaying residents of the City of Boston. As a result, in light of these drastic changes and concerns from my constituents, I am respectfully requesting that the Planning Department conduct an additional 30 day comment period on these new issues until Wednesday, July 16th, 2025.

In the final analysis, I continue to firmly believe that residents of a neighborhood must be heard during the community engagement process. That did not take place with the recent changes made by The Planning Department. As the City Councilor representing the majority of Downtown Boston, I strongly encourage the Planning Department to allow for more public engagement with my constituents, and to carefully and respectfully listen to their new and legitimate concerns in a thorough community process. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at directly 617-635-3203, or at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, District 2