



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

December 10, 2024

Dear Councilors,

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

- *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.*

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on May 22, 2024.

- *Docket #1624, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Jessica Boatright, as a Member of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure (BERDO) Review Board for a term expiring April 24, 2026.*

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on October 30, 2024.

- *Docket #1690, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Ryan Woods, as a member of the Zoning Commission, for a term expiring October 26, 2026.*
- *Docket #1691, Message and order for the confirmation of the reappointment of Michael Nichols, as a member of the Zoning Commission, for a term expiring October 1, 2027.*
- *Docket #1692, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Ameeth Deenanath as an Alternate Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1693, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Senam Kumahia as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1694, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Fadi Samaha as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1695, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Richard Henderson as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*



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- *Docket #1696, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Lindsey Mac-Janes as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1697, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Jeffrey Gonyeau as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1698, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Linda Neshamkin as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1699, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Julie Hall as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1700, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Ian Urquhart as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1701, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Crystal Galvin as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1702, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Nancy Johnson as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1703, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Intiya Ambrogi Isaza as a Member of the Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District.*
- *Docket #1704, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of David Marr as a member of the Zoning Commission, for a term expiring on November 1, 2026.*

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on November 20, 2024.

Summary of Legislation

Dockets #0866, #1624, and #1690-1704 are orders for the confirmation of appointments and reappointments to various boards and commissions.

Information Received at Hearing



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The Committee held a hearing on December 9, 2024 to discuss the filed appointments. 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. Appointees expressed commitment to work and review neighborhood plans and zoning changes in order to make informed decisions on the cases before the board, commitment to development review as a means to address the affordable housing and zoning challenges, as well as architectural and historic conservation.

Furthermore, the Committee heard comments from Joe Cornish, from the Office of Historic Preservation, who gave additional context around the *Study Committee to prepare the report for the potential designation of a Monument Square Architectural Conservation District*.

He stated: "On July 26, 2022 the Boston Landmarks Commission accepted a petition submitted by registered voters to designate the Monument Square Landmark District in Charlestown for further study. Presently, a diverse and enthusiastic group of volunteers consisting of five members of the Boston Landmarks Commission and six community members have come forward to serve on a Study Committee to make recommendations to the Commission on the proposed designation.

The Study Committee will identify the historic, architectural and archaeological significance of the resources located in the proposed district, and finalize the proposed district's boundaries which will include properties facing Monument Square. Current and future planning issues will be reviewed and discussed to formulate recommendations to preserve the unique historic character of the Monument Square neighborhood while encouraging contextually sensitive new development in appropriate areas. This work will be conducted over the course of six months to one year at public meetings with ample opportunity for community feedback. Community outreach events will be held to publicize the work of the Study Committee and provide community members with an opportunity to learn more about the district under study. To further increase public awareness and invite participation, a web page will be set up to post meeting agendas as well as to post and update the work of the Study Committee. Interpretation, translation, and disability accommodation services will also be available to the public at no cost.

The Study Committee will ultimately produce a study report outlining its recommendations on the proposed designation of the Monument Square Landmark District that will be posted for public feedback. Following the public feedback period and amendments by staff, the final study report will be submitted to the Boston Landmarks Commission for a vote to designate. If the Commission votes to designate, the Mayor and the City Council will then have the opportunity to approve, deny, or take no action on the proposed designation of the district."

It was noted that the appointee in Docket #1695 is not longer interested in being nominated, and the appointees for Dockets #1624 and #1699 were not present at the hearing. The appointee for Docket #1699 later furnished a written statement in support of her candidacy for her nomination that outlined her qualifications and motivation.



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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 on these dockets as follows:

***Dockets #0866, #1690-1694, #1696-1699, and #1700-1704 OUGHT TO PASS, and
Dockets #1624 and #1695 OUGHT TO BE PLACED ON FILE.***

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