



Boston City Council
Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation
Frank Baker, *Chair*

December 14, 2022

Dear Councilors:

The Boston City Council's Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation to which was referred the following, messages and orders for the confirmation of these Appointments and Reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeal:

Docket #1171 – Message and order for the confirmation of the re-appointment of Sherry Dong as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring May 1, 2023.

Docket #1172 – Message and order for the confirmation of the re-appointment of Hansy Better Barraza as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring May 1, 2024.

Docket #1173 – Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Giovanny Valencia as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring May 1, 2024.

Docket #1176 – Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Alan E. Langham as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring May 1, 2025.

Docket #1177 – Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Norm Stembridge as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring May 1, 2025.

Docket #1178 – Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Shavel'le Olivier as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring May 1, 2025.

Docket #1179 – Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of David Collins as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring May 1, 2025.

Docket #1212 – Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Katie Whewell as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring May 1, 2024.

These matters are sponsored by the Mayor and were referred to the Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation (Dockets #1171-#1173 and #1176-#1179) on September 28, 2022 and (Docket #1212) on October 5, 2022.

The Committee on Planning and Development held a public hearing in the Iannella Chamber on December 12, 2022, to take testimony and consider the same.

Councilors Present: Chair – Frank Baker, Councilor Erin Murphy, Council President Ed Flynn, Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, Councilor Gabriela Coletta, Councilor Brian Worrell and Councilor Kenzie Bok

Chris English, Chief of Staff at Inspectional Services Department (ISD) attended the hearing and presented testimony on the mission, composition and jurisdiction of the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) and in support of all the appointments and reappointments.

The ZBA totals 14 members – seven primary members and seven alternates with a range of experience as required by state law – who serve three-year terms. Alternates serve if primary members are unable to attend a ZBA hearing.

The ZBA is tasked with reviewing development proposals in the City of Boston. They hear requests regarding zoning issues, such as conditional use permits, variances, permission to expand or change approved uses, and similar zoning relief.

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) consists of seven members with seven alternate members that are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Boston City Council.

The City Council's Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation reviewed the resumes and credentials of all the appointees. (Here attached)

The appointees responded to questions from the Chair and other Councilors regarding their qualifications, relevant experience, background, areas of expertise, how they would handle conflict of interest situations and on the independence, rationale and criteria that they would exercise when making decisions.

Based on the testimony and information presented at the hearing, and having considered the same, I respectfully report that these appointments and reappointments ought to be confirmed.



Frank Baker, Chair

Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation