



Boston City Council

Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation
Councilor Frank Baker, *Chair*

February 15, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Boston City Council's Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation to which was referred the following:

Docket #0324 – Message and order temporarily extending Urban Renewal Plans in the City of Boston until March 31, 2025 or passage of a proposed relevant Home Rule Petition.

This matter is sponsored by the Mayor and was referred to the Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation on February 1, 2023.

The Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation held a public hearing on February 13, 2023, to take testimony and consider the same.

Councilors Present: Chair - Councilor Frank Baker, Council President Ed Flynn, Councilor Kenzie Bok, Councilor Erin Murphy, Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson

Letters of support/attendance were read into the record from Councilor Gabriela Coletta and Councilor Kendra Lara

Arthur Jemison - Chief of Planning and Director, BPDA; Chris Breen - Urban Renewal Manager, BPDA; Devin Quirk - Deputy Chief, BPDA and Reuben Kantor - Director of Strategy and Operations, BPDA: made a presentation (attached) on the particulars of this order and responded to questions from Councilors. The presentation included: history, background, Urban Renewal Case Examples, and the rational for temporarily extending Urban Renewal Plans in the City of Boston until March 31, 2025 or passage of a proposed relevant Home Rule Petition.

The proposed Order, requests a two-year extension of the remaining Urban Renewal plans in alignment with the timeline for legislative consideration of the Home Rule Petition, which is currently assigned to the Boston City Council's Committee on Government Operations. The Mayor is requesting that the extension be granted for the shorter of either (a) two (2) additional

years (i.e., to March 31, 2025), or (b) until such time that the Home Rule petition passes.

In April 2016, the City Council granted approval of a six (6) year extension of Boston Urban Renewal plans; fourteen (14) Urban Renewal plans, which was subsequently approved by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

In March 2022, the BPDA, Council and DHCD sunset two (2) additional Urban Renewal plans. An expiration of the twelve active Urban Renewal plans before the home rule petition is adopted with protections for transferring existing land use protections would risk dissolution of the affordable housing, open space, and other community-oriented land use restrictions currently enforced under the plans.

In seeking this temporary extension, the BPDA shall focus its Urban Renewal-related efforts solely on (a) enforcing existing land use restrictions that protect community values (e.g., income restrictions, elderly preferences, open space, and other community uses) and (b) advancing the resiliency, affordability, and equity goals of the city.

Based on the documentation and information presented at the hearing and having considered the same I respectfully recommend that a roll call vote be taken and that this matter ought to Pass.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

**Councilor Frank Baker, Chair
Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation**