

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation Frank Baker, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

July 19, 2023

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation was referred **Docket #0864**, **Message and order for your approval of the receipt of a Preservation Restriction on Hayden Building**, 681-683 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02111-1611.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on May 3, 2023. The Committee held a public hearing on July 18, 2023.

Summary of Legislation:

The Hayden Building located at 681-683 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02111-1611 is a structure that is historically significant with respect to its architecture. The owner of the Historically Significant Property has conveyed a historic preservation restriction to the exterior features of the Historically Significant Property to Historic Boston, Inc., a charitable corporation exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, by agreement through a permanent restriction. The intent of this Historic Preservation Restriction is to enable Historic Boston Inc to review proposed alterations and assess their impact on the historical and architectural integrity of the property. Docket #0864 asks for approval of this restriction.

Information Gathered at the Hearing:

Joseph Cornish, Director of Design Review at the Office of Historic Preservation and Kathy Kottaridis, Executive Director of Historic Boston Inc. testified at the hearing. Mr. Cornish and Ms. Kottaridis gave the committee an historical update and overview of the Hayden Building. They explained to the Chair that the docket asked for authorization for the Boston Landmarks Commission, as the preservation planning agency of the City of Boston, to recommend approval of the Preservation Restriction. They also mentioned that there is already a historic preservation on the property's interior. The sale of the building is pending contingent on approval of preservation restrictions. Ms. Kottaridis mentioned that Historic Boston Inc. will work with Grantor to develop mutually satisfactory solutions which are in the best interest of preserving the historic values of the property.

Recommended Action:

The Chair of the Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation, to which the following was referred: Docket #0864, Message and order for your approval of the receipt of a Preservation Restriction on Hayden Building, 681-683 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02111-1611.

submits a report recommending that the docket ought to pass.

Hawk Balen

Frank Baker, Chair

Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation