

April, 2017

Office of Coastal Zone Management
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02114
Attention: Lisa Berry Engler

Re: Downtown Waterfront District Municipal Harbor Plan

Dear Ms. Engler:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the Municipal Harbor Plan recently approved by the BPDA Board, and for the vision that it represents for Boston's central waterfront.

Much of the debate around the MHP has revolved around the proposed substitutions and offsets for the Harbor Garage—an outdated eyesore that everyone agrees should be replaced by an iconic development, one that enhances the waterfront rather than blocking it. The garage site is ideally suited for architecture that transforms both the skyline and the ground-level pedestrian experience. Situated at Boston's "front door to the world," this site deserves a cutting-edge design statement. It is located at the commercial core of the city, where Boston's transportation infrastructure and its residential, business and visitor populations converge, making it particularly appropriate for a sizable transit-oriented, mixed-use development. The Harbor Garage is a seven-story parking structure that covers 100% of its site. In replacing it, we can gain significant *new* open space, water view corridors, and ground-floor spaces that will draw people from all over the city, region, and world. These are the kinds of results that Chapter 91 is supposed to create on Boston Harbor.

I believe that monumental architecture can thrive alongside a spectacular, human-centered public realm. And on the Downtown Waterfront, a successful Harbor Garage project is absolutely essential to realizing the transformation of the public realm that so many wish to see. The BPDA has worked long and hard to turn diverse viewpoints into a vision; it's time to work together to make that vision a reality. It is imperative that the Municipal Harbor Plan you approve remain faithful to the stated aims of the current draft and, above all, serve to foster, rather than frustrate, this bold vision for the future of our Downtown Waterfront.

Sincerely,

Name:
Address: