October 5, 2026

Will Cohen, AICP
Senior Zoning Reform Planner II
Boston Planning Department
1 City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Cohen:

On behalf of the Bellevue Hill Improvement Association (BHIA), I am writing regarding the public-comment process for the proposed zoning changes in West Roxbury.

BHIA appreciates the opportunities the Planning Department has provided for residents to learn about the proposal, attend community meetings, and submit comments. As this process continues, we respectfully ask the Department to make the substantive community feedback it receives publicly accessible, with appropriate personal information redacted where necessary.

Residents are devoting considerable time to reviewing proposed zoning maps and text, attending meetings, and commenting on changes that may directly affect their properties and neighborhoods. Public access to those comments would allow residents to understand the range of perspectives within the community, identify recurring questions and concerns, and better understand how public input is informing the proposal as it evolves.

We would also appreciate greater clarity regarding how written comments and feedback received through public meetings are being recorded, reviewed, and considered. If the Department intends to publish a summary of community feedback rather than the individual substantive comments, we respectfully ask that the methodology used to characterize that feedback be explained and that the underlying comments remain publicly accessible to the extent permitted by law.

Transparency builds trust in the public process. As the Planning Department continues to seek community feedback, we believe residents should be able to see and understand the substantive comments being provided by their community and how that feedback is informing the process.

BHIA therefore respectfully asks the Department to make the substantive comments publicly accessible; explain how written and meeting-based feedback is being recorded and considered; and identify whether a public compilation or summary of comments will be issued before final recommendations are made.

We would appreciate knowing whether the Department plans to make these materials available and, if so, when and where residents will be able to access them.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Antonina Guarino
President
Bellevue Hill Improvement Association
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cc: Kairos Shen, Chief of Planning