



April 7, 2017

Lorraine Nessar
Department of Housing and Community Development
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Nessar,

This letter serves as our agency's comments on the proposed amendments to 760 CMR 12.00 – Urban Renewal Regulations and 760 CMR 59.00 – Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District (M.G.L. c. 40R). I would like to offer these issues to consider.

- 12.04 It is unclear whether this section pertains to all property acquisitions or exclusively purchases within an urban renewal plan area. If the former is true, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority ("CRA") would like clarification as to why the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") should have to make an approval of an appraisal action in all property acquisitions, specifically if the Department is not providing funding for such acquisitions.
- 12.06 The CRA is supportive of requiring renewal agencies to provide annual reports of its activities to the governing body of its host community. The CRA would appreciate, however, if the regulations could provide more time flexibility to meet this reporting requirement. The CRA Board holds its Annual Meeting in February, per the CRA by-laws, and the CRA staff has always provided the Board with its annual report at that public meeting. As an agency working within a January to December fiscal year, the CRA would be challenged to provide a thorough report of expenses and activities to the City of Cambridge by January.

Thank you for your consideration of the issues outlined above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas L. Evans'.

Thomas L. Evans
Executive Director
Cambridge Redevelopment Authority