

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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December 6, 2021

Dear Members of the Harvard Allston Task Force,

Thank you for your letter and for your thoughtful feedback regarding the Enterprise Research Campus (ERC) and Harvard's plans in Allston.

Allow me to first express my deep gratitude and appreciation for your partnership in the many meaningful and ongoing relationships the University has across the North Allston/North Brighton community. I'm particularly grateful for your commitment and service as representatives on the Harvard Allston Task Force. Nowhere can we see the strength of your dedication more fulsomely than in your engagement throughout, and perhaps despite, the COVID-19 pandemic. And while this crisis has hindered our ability to engage with one another in person through our usual public planning processes, I applaud the ways in which the Task Force has been able to work through these new challenges to provide guidance and highlight community priorities. I'm also pleased that Harvard has similarly pivoted to broaden and expand community engagement beyond the Zoom screen, and that our teams have been able to connect with hundreds of community members to share the University's planning vision and to surface reactions, priorities, and feedback from a large and diverse group of local stakeholders and residents.

This process has allowed us to learn much about areas of importance and impact in the broader community. Unsurprisingly, green spaces and housing were front-of-mind topics for many. We share a commitment to a green-space planning process that focuses on sustainability, resilience, and adaptation, alongside health and equity. Harvard is, and has been, a strong steward of open, accessible, welcoming green space, and that approach is embedded in our planning. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in Harvard's updated ERC Framework Plan document, which contains principles that guide our planning and directly address these issues.

We also agree there is real urgency in making substantive efforts to address equitable and affordable housing in our region. I am proud of the ways Harvard has led in this area over the last several decades, through innovative investments in creating and preserving affordable housing in Allston-Brighton and across the region, and particularly through the Harvard Local Housing Collaborative, which has leveraged more than \$1.3 billion in affordable housing development. Similarly, we are pleased that the Task Force has recognized our commitment to create homeownership opportunities on Seattle Street, and we will continue to rely on your partnership, feedback, and guidance as we move forward.

In fact, all of our efforts rely on your thoughtful engagement—from creating a welcoming and inclusive gateway to the Enterprise Research Campus, the Science and Engineering Complex, and the Greenway, to ensuring that our shared vision for a resilient and climate-ready campus and neighborhood, and the infrastructure required to create such a space, is able to advance. We are all committed to creating a district that the University and the community can be proud of. We will

continue to work collaboratively with the city, elected officials, and the Allston-Brighton community to further explore many of the important issues that we've heard about through the ongoing community-feedback process. Understanding that many of these topics require more detailed responses, I have asked Purnima Kapur, Harvard's chief of university planning and design, to follow up with additional specifics in due course, along with the University's planning and public affairs teams.

Let me say once again how much I appreciate your consistent engagement and thoughtful feedback. I look forward to our continued collaboration as we work together to ensure that a new, vibrant, equitable, and welcoming district will both complement and enrich the Allston-Brighton neighborhood. We are fortunate to be a part of this remarkable community, and I am grateful for your partnership.

I hope to be able to see many of you in the neighborhood in the new year and, in the meantime, send my warm wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence S. Bacow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lawrence S. Bacow