

BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

www.bostonpreservation.org

December 6, 2022

John Amodeo, Chair
South End Landmark District Commission
Via email: BLC@Boston.gov
Re: Hotel Alexandra, 1767-1796 Washington Street

Dear Chair Amodeo,

The Boston Preservation Alliance is Boston's primary, non-profit advocacy organization that protects and promotes the use of historic buildings and landscapes in all of the city's neighborhoods. With 40 Organizational Members, 109 Corporate Members, and a reach of over 100,000 friends and supporters we represent a diverse constituency advocating for the thoughtful evolution of the city and celebration of its unique character. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on projects that impact the historic character of the city.

The Alliance has engaged in dialogue about this site for many years, advocating for the preservation of the iconic Hotel Alexandra. In 2019, we participated in many conversations and public meetings to determine if the proposed project is appropriate for this unique situation. After much deliberation and dialogue, it was determined by the Commission that preservation and full restoration of the two outer facades of the historic building justified the height of the new addition. The Alliance supported this position and continues to support this compromise with the current change in use.

In most scenarios we would not support a proposal that exceeds the height limit in a historic district. However, we feel that this is the last opportunity to save the facades of the hotel, a priority of ours and many others in the preservation community, and that if this project does not succeed the site will likely sit vacant and deteriorating for many more years.

Therefore, the Alliance urges the South End Landmark District Commission to approve this application.

Thank you,



Alison Frazee
Executive Director