

June 1, 2011

Representative Linda Dorcena Forry, Chair
Senator Sal DiDomenico, Chair
Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business
State House, Room 26
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Dorcena Forry and Chairman DiDomenico:

My name is Gail Latimore. I am the Executive Director of the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corp (NDC).

I am here today in support of the Community Development Partnership Act. This act would establish a tax credit that would encourage private investors to invest in revitalizing communities.

CDCs such as Codman Square NDC, working with local stakeholders such as residents, businesses and civic groups, would develop plans for the development of their communities.

To qualify for an allocation of tax credits, CDCs would have to be certified by the Dept of Housing and Community Development under Ch. 40 H, Sect 2. The certification seeks to insure that a CDC is genuinely community based, directed by and representing the voice of the community and doing community improvement work. CDCs would then have to competitively apply for a tax credit allocation.

In Codman Square, we are in the process of developing the Millennium Ten plan, a comprehensive community plan that sets forth the community's vision for improvement in a number of focal areas. Our last such plan, rolled out in 2000, focused on small business development, vacant lot development, youth development and development of arts and culture within the community, as well as development of the green environment.

We are also very actively engaged in creating urban villages along the Fairmount commuter rail line, pursuant to our award winning 2006 smart growth plan, as updated by several sub-neighborhood based Fairmount planning processes.

This work, over the past 10 years, has resulted in the development or redevelopment of approximately 150 units of housing that is affordable to working families, along with the redevelopment of the major thoroughfares within our community, the creation of approximately 300 new jobs, and an arts and concert series in Codman Square, among other impactful community improvement work,

Page Two
Gail Latimore
Codman Square NDC
Testimony on Community Development Partnership Act
June 1, 2011

While we've made significant strides, much more has to be done. People need jobs, foreclosures are still an issue, businesses need support in staying afloat and youth violence continues to threaten the viability of our community.

The Community Investment Tax Credit established through this bill will enable communities to address their most pressing issues by encouraging individuals and corporations to provide the financial capital needed to make positive change.

I strongly support this bill and urge that you to pass it. Please let me know what Codman Square NDC can do to insure this happens, and thank you.

Sincerely,

Gail Latimore
Executive Director