



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

July 17, 2017

Leslie Singleton Adam
Chair, Board of Directors
Friends of the Public Garden
69 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Winthrop Square - \$28 million for Boston Common

Dear Chairwoman Adam,

As we have discussed, on receipt of the Winthrop Square garage initial sale payment, I plan to introduce legislation to the Boston City Council that will initiate spending of Winthrop Square proceeds on capital and maintenance improvements in the Boston Common, with an ultimate city investment of \$28 million. If approved, this funding will immediately be put to use to improve the Common, with the goal of leveraging significant additional private donations. The City of Boston looks forward to partnering with the Friends of the Public Garden to develop a Master Plan for the Common and to plan future capital expenditures.

As part of the legislation, language will be included that will set aside \$5 million of the \$28 million total to be dedicated to the Common for a perpetual trust, to be held by the City for the exclusive purpose of the Boston Common. The corpus of the trust will be restricted solely for investment. The three trustees for the trust will be appointed by the Mayor's Office, the City Councilor for Boston's Eighth District and the Friends of the Public Garden. The trustees will be charged with making investment and spending decisions regarding the trust. The income from this trust will not supplant operating funds of the Parks Department for the Boston Common.

The City of Boston's Parks and Recreation Department will prepare a Master Plan for the Boston Common, with a goal of completion by December 31, 2018, working in conjunction with the Friends, and incorporating previous studies conducted by the Friends and the Parks Department. This plan will serve as the basis for decisions regarding major expenditures of funds for park improvements, and the phasing of such investments. The Master Plan will also explore maintenance and management standards to ensure the sustainability of the capital investments.

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The development of the Master Plan and subsequent capital spending will include a robust public process, and stakeholders neighboring the Common and from across the city will be invited to participate in this exciting opportunity to make significant improvements to the oldest -- and one of the most cherished -- parks in the country. I look forward to working closely, through Commissioner Cook and the Parks Department, with the Friends and all other stakeholders in this important endeavor.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Walsh', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston