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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION*

January 29, 2016

Jai Singh Khalsa  
17 Ivaloo Street #400  
Somerville, MA 02143

**Re: Demolition of the house  
at 640 Mystic Avenue**

**Determined Significant: January 26, 2016**

Dear Mr. Khalsa,

On Tuesday, January 26, 2016, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to determine the c. 1870 single-family dwelling at 23 Cleveland Street 'Significant' because the building, per Section 2.17.B of the Demolition Review Ordinance 2003-05, is "at least 50 years old, and is or has been determined by the Commission to be a significant building or structure after a finding that the building or structure is either:

- i. "Importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or
- ii. "Historically or architecturally significant (in terms of period, style, method of building construction, or association with a reputed architect or builder) either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures, and therefore it is in the public interest to be preserved or rehabilitated rather than to be demolished."

The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to an association with the Boston Bottle Works, Irish immigration and employment, and the type of housing typical for the working classes.

The Commission also found the subject building historically and architecturally significant to its form as a high basement workers cottage from the early 1870s within a group of similar buildings associated with the Boston Bottle Works, Samuel Oakman, inventor, and Irish immigration

The period of significance for 640 Mystic Avenue begins with its construction as workers housing for the Boston Bottle Works and continues as housing for people of a similar class throughout the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Commission will hold a public hearing on February 16, 2016 to review the initial determination of 'Significance' and if the building should be 'Preferably Preserved.' Per Section 4.2.D, "If the

Commission determines that the demolition of the significant building or structure would be detrimental to the architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the City, such building or structure shall be considered preferably preserved." Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, followed by a discussion and a vote by the Commission.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (617) 625-6600 x 2534.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kristi Chase".

Kristenna P. Chase  
Preservation Planner, Planning Division  
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development

Cc: Paul Nonni, Sr. Building Inspector, Inspectional Services Division  
George Proakis, Director, Planning Division  
J. Brandon Wilson, Executive Director, Historic Preservation Commission  
John Long, City Clerk