

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION RELEASES COMMENTS ON THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD, PIER 5 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD, April 11, 2021 —

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) recently presented three proposals in response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) to restore Pier 5 in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

In response to the RFP by the BPDA, The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), a non-profit environmental advocacy organization, released its comments regarding the development proposals.

CLF's focus on compliance with The Public Waterfront Act ("Chapter 91") addresses shortcomings of all three proposals:

- The classification of Navy Blue and 6M as "marinas" when they are clearly residences violates the regulation that housing units are not a "water-dependent" use. Noting that both Navy Blue and 6M do not align with regulatory requirements, CLF is "disappointed that the BPDA allowed these proposals to proceed so far in the process." Further, this misclassification was used to circumvent the open space requirements of Chapter 91.

- Importantly, concerning Urbanica, CLF has concerns that the "proponent seeks to include the rooftop garden within open space calculations. This is not permitted under the HarborPark Plan or the underlying Waterways Regulations". Urbanica must demonstrate that 50% of their project is open space without including the roof garden in such a calculation. While a roof garden can be part of the project, the proponent must allocate other areas toward open space.

- Building height as required in the RFP (Request for Proposal) is 35 feet to conform with building heights in the area. Urbanica exceeds 35 feet throughout the development. We believe that the necessity to scale down this project's size to meet stated requirements on open space and building height calls into question the development's proposed economic viability.

[Pier 5.org](http://Pier5.org), a group of concerned citizens, recognizes the historical value of Pier 5 and its unique position as Boston's Head of the Harbor. We do not believe that privatizing Pier 5 is appropriate

and are advocating for Pier 5 to remain a public, climate-resilient, and historic open space for all.

Pier5.org has over 1,500 signatures on a petition and seeks the support of all who would like to see a public park at Pier 5.

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[www.pier5.org](http://www.pier5.org)  
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