



CITY OF SOMERVILLE

In Board of Aldermen _____

Whereas, in 1972, the City of Somerville took land for playground purposes; and

Whereas, such land is protected by Article XCVII (97) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts amending Article XLIX (49) of the Constitution, which provides in part that “the protection of the people in their right to the conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air, and other natural resources is hereby declared to be a public purpose” and that lands “taken or acquired for such purposes shall not be used for other purposes or otherwise disposed of except by laws enacted by a two thirds vote, taken by yeas and nays, of each branch of the general court”; and

Whereas, the playground, known as Harris Park, is located immediately adjacent to Interstate I-93 and is not used by neighborhood children because of its unhealthy air quality and unaesthetic appearance; and

Whereas, the City wishes to dispose of Harris Park to be used for purposes other than a park/playground use and to acquire a similar-sized piece of land on the same street but farther from the highway to be used as a replacement park/playground;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY VOTED: To submit this petition to the Legislature pursuant to Article XCVII (97) of the State Constitution amending Article XLIX (49) of the Constitution, requesting the Legislature to adopt an act by a two thirds vote taken by

yeas and nays of each branch of the general court, such act to take effect upon its passage, authorizing the City of Somerville to use and/or dispose of Harris Park for purposes other than a park/playground use; provided, that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

Rebekah L. Gewirtz, President
Board of Aldermen