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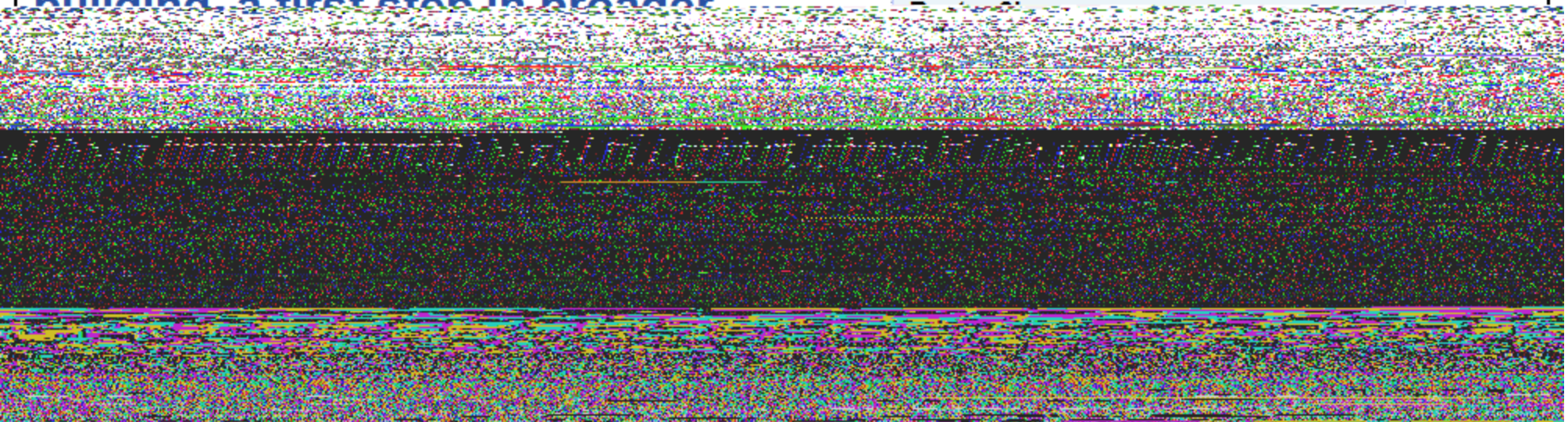
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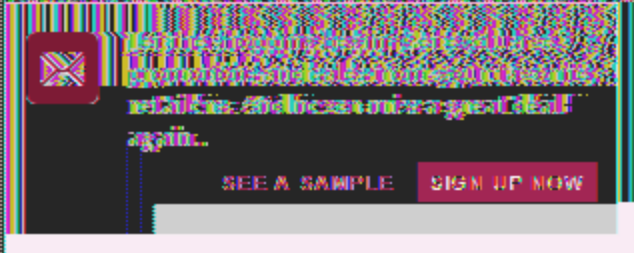
City OKs Harvard campus services building, a first step in broader



Allston developments

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The city on Thursday night gave final approval for Harvard University to relocate its campus service facilities in Allston after the university agreed to a list of conditions about its overall development activity in the neighborhood.



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No one spoke against the relocation proposal at Thursday night's meeting of the Boston Redevelopment Authority board, which voted unanimously to approve the plan.

The project calls for Harvard to relocate campus services -- mailing, information technology, police training, recycling, storage, and transportation fleet management -- from a building at 219 Western Ave. in Allston to a site a few blocks away at 28 Travis St.

Relocating Harvard's campus services facilities -- a move the university has said it does not intend to be permanent -- will make room at the Western Avenue site for a proposed 350,000-square-foot residential and retail project, which a private developer hopes to get city approval for next month, start work on in the fall and finish in about two years.

Harvard considers the relocation proposal and the mixed-use project to be part of the first phase of what it expects to be decades of development to expand its campus.

The relocation proposal had faced criticism from some who said putting the campus services facility on Travis Street, even temporarily, would not fit with

the neighborhood's residential character.

It was drafted one week earlier by the Harvard Allston neighborhood residents appointed to oversee the project.

Conditions of approval for the relocation project, will

process this April to build its promised Rena Park at the park's construction in 2014; develop a master plan for campus services, which would clarify that the site is temporary; implement that campus services relocation after the university opens its proposed science building after the university opens its proposed science building scheduled to open in about five years; and to not allow noise between midnight and 6 a.m. at the 28 Travis St. site, city

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The terms are similar to a list of conditions in a 2008 agreement between Harvard and the neighborhood's development plan.

The terms, included as conditions of approval, require Harvard to:

Start a community planning process and begin the first phase of the comprehensive master plan for the 28 Travis St. relocation project within one year of the start of construction of the master plan within one year of the start of construction of the complex in Allston, which is a major transportation hub between the city and the university, officials have said.

If the university fails to comply with the terms, the city would block Harvard from opening new buildings in Allston by withholding

million building under construction that is scheduled to open as a business school campus in Allston. And, this past week, the city released its 10-year master plan framework for Allston that, in addition to the science complex, calls for nine new projects, including a new baseball stadium, a hotel and conference center, and new school buildings.

Harvard's presence in Allston, nearly double the size of its

development plans in the neighborhood have been controversial. Many Allston residents have said their patience is running thin, if not gone all together.

But the city and area residents have said they hope the deal marks the start of improved relations between the

city, representatives from local labor unions and other groups. One member speaking on the rest of the group's behalf said the project at Thursday's meeting before the board

also clears another, more controversial proposal from the city to the Bright Hockey Center and Gordon Indoor

city's proposals for Allston, [click here](#).

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The terms also state that, if the city would block Harvard from occupancy permits.

The university has a \$100 million in new buildings to open later this year on its Allston campus. In fall the university revealed a new science building, a new basketball arena, a red brick building, and new business school buildings.

Harvard owns about 360 acres in Allston and Cambridge campuses.

The university's presence in Allston has been controversial for years, and trust with the university has been low.

But, officials from Harvard, the city, and local residents, recent compromises signal a new era of trust between university and residents.

Several local elected officials, including the mayor and residents, including a task force to study the deal, have voiced support for the deal.

The approval of the project is a major step for Harvard to make renovations to the Bright Hockey Center and Track.

To read more about Harvard's deal with the city, [click here](#).

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