

## **THE NORTH END NEWS**

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### **No more excuses for opposition to Armenian Heritage Park**

The North End and Waterfront communities and the public at large have waited too long to secure and enjoy a park at Parcel 13 on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway. With the sequentially stated reasons for delay over the past year all proven to be misconceived at best or intentionally misrepresented, it is clear that the park as originally designed and offered to the public by the Armenian Heritage Foundation, with only slight modifications, should be formally approved by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority Board of Directors, accepted by the Mayor's Central Artery Task Force and the North End Central Artery Advisory Committee, and moved into construction right away.

It will be a great mistake to deny the Armenian Heritage Foundation and the local community it represents their own imprint on those aspects of the park design and public experience that are intended to stimulate reflection with remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, while at the same time celebrating the journey of all our families to new lives in this new world.

The public process over the past several months has been effective in identifying a consensus and clear desire to accept the Armenian Heritage Foundation's gift. Slight modifications to the sidewalks on the perimeter may be reasonable, but there is no support in this community for any other changes to the Foundation's design. The public experience so carefully planned in the intricate details and historical context of the designed park elements should not be compromised. I urge the North End Central Artery Advisory Committee to stand with the North End/Waterfront community in its support of the Armenian Heritage Foundation's proposal.

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