



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

STAFF PRESENT

MADELEINE MASTERS, *PLANNING DIRECTOR*

MEMBERS PRESENT

BEATRIZ GOMEZ MOUAKAD

PETER WIEDERSPAHN

FRANK VALDES

Meeting Minutes & Recommendations

The Somerville Design Review Committee held a public meeting on **Thursday August 14, 2008 at 6:30 pm** in the Aldermanic Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

The DRC made the following comments and recommendations (underlined):

259 McGrath Highway - *The applicant seeks Special Permit with Site Plan Review approval under SZO §7.11.11.1 to expand the existing auto dealership corporate offices with a second floor addition and to make façade alterations. Industrial A / Ward 2.*

The DRC reviewed the proposal and expressed concern that the “Autohaus”-themed façade changes did not properly integrate with the existing structure. The Autohaus features are essentially glass and steel construction, whereas the existing structure is masonry construction. The DRC expressed concern that there were too many themes that did not blend well, and opined that the design could be improved by either of two approaches: 1) the masonry and Autohaus features might be better integrated with each other, and extended over the existing showroom area as well as into the new second floor; or 2) the Autohaus element and the existing masonry design should be clearly distinct and independent of one another. Because this was not yet resolved, they did not recommend approval of the Autohaus façade changes.

At the Applicant’s suggestion that the Autohaus elements might be withdrawn from consideration to allow for further investigation of that design, the DRC stated that they would recommend approval of the second floor addition subject to two changes: 1) the storefront system for the entry door should be simplified, similar to the new second floor windows; and 2) the columns should be painted to match the dark grey of the Smart Car façade.