

Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Department of Planning & Community Development 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

Public Hearing Memorandum - Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Arlington Redevelopment Board and public with technical information and a planning analysis to assist with the regulatory decision-making process.

To: Arlington Redevelopment Board

From: Jennifer Raitt, Secretary Ex Officio

Subject: Environmental Design Review, Docket #3665

645 Massachusetts Avenue

Date: September 22, 2021

This memo is provided as an update to the previous memo provided on August 30, 2021. The materials provided for the continued public hearing are not responsive to the ARB's comments. The Applicant provided the following materials:

- Cover letter to the Redevelopment Board, dated September 18, 2021; and
- Sign Package, including elevations and renderings, prepared by Philadelphia Sign, revised September 9, 2021.

The Board requested that the Applicant install clear-glazed windows along the streetfront façade that align with the commercial district and use; move the proposed blade sign; maintain the existing sidewalk seating and planters from the prior tenant; address the rear access point for accessibility; and incorporate the required bike parking. The Board also asked the Applicant to provide a better description of their services and how they differ from similar business uses in Arlington Center.

Regarding the windows along the Massachusetts Avenue and David Lamson Way facades, the renderings and elevations in the sign package show that the gridded windows will be replaced with commercial windows. It appears from the renderings that the glazing has also been addressed. Specifications on window type and glazing have not been provided.

With regard to signage, the Board can find that the request to move the proposed blade has been addressed.

Regarding sidewalk seating and planters, the applicant has revised the renderings to show seating and planters along the Massachusetts Avenue façade. The applicant will need to provide updated site and/or floor plans indicating the locations of these items.

Regarding bicycle parking, the applicant states that submission materials have been updated to show short term bicycle parking in front of the site. A bicycle rack is shown on the rendering on DRC Page 8 of the updated sign package. The applicant should update site and/or floor plans accordingly, indicate the amount of short-term bicycle parking provided. While the applicant indicates that long-term parking will be integrated into the project, the applicant will need to provide updated floor plans identifying the location, quantity, and type of long-term bicycle parking. Bike rack specifications for short- and long-term parking are needed to determine compliance with Section 6.1.12.E.

Regarding providing an accessible entrance at the rear of the building, the applicant concluded that the existing conditions prohibit their ability to improve accessibility through the rear entrance. The closest HP placard parking space to the main entry and ATM is in front of the Coldwell Banker property at 635 Massachusetts Avenue.

The applicant should provide a more detailed update regarding any of the above items at the continued hearing.

Representatives from Chase Bank will be in attendance at the September 27, 2021 hearing to present information on the services they intend to provide at this location, as well as to answer questions regarding any market studies that were completed as part of the bank's decision to establish a branch at this location.

Finally, staff were asked to calculate the total linear feet of banks within Arlington Center. For economic development purposes, the Town defines the Arlington Center as 375 to 1056 Massachusetts Avenue; 283 to 327 Broadway; Medford, Mill, Mystic Streets; Schouler Court; Summer Street. Within these limits are a total of 264 commercial units¹.

There are a total of nine banks or ATMs in Arlington Center, or 3.4% of total commercial units. The table below provides the bank name, type, address, parcel frontage, and building width. Parcels on corner lots are indicated with an asterisk; for corner lots, the total parcel and building frontage along both streets are listed first, followed by the frontage specific to Massachusetts Avenue in parentheses.

¹ According to Arlington Town Assessor Data. This figure does not include the 180 individual rental units and commercial condos within commercial properties like 22 Mill, 29 Mill, etc.

			Parcel	Street-facing
Bank name	Туре	Address	frontage (ft)	building width (ft)
Chase Bank	ATM	323 Broadway	n/a²	23
Leader Bank	Bank Branch	449 Mass Ave*	n/a³	70 (26)
Cambridge Savings Bank	Bank Branch and Drive-up	626 Mass Ave*	285 (115)	187 (133)
Bank of America	Bank Branch	655 Mass Ave	51	48
Citizens Bank	Bank Branch and Drive-up	699 Mass Ave*	278 (151)	139 (82)
Brookline Bank	Bank Branch and Drive-up	856 Mass Ave*	204 (91)	135 (67)
Leader Bank	Residential Lending	864 Mass Ave*	218 (107)	154 (103)
TD Bank North	Bank Branch and Drive-up	880 Mass Ave*	408 (179)	182 (80)
Watertown Savings Bank	Bank Branch and Drive-up	980 Mass Ave*	268 (110)	155 (69)
		TOTAL	1,712 (804)	1,093 (631)
* Corner lot				

Linear calculations have been estimated using the Town's GIS data. Should precise numbers be required, individual site plans would need to be requested from each property.

² Tenant in a structure with multiple units on one lot ³ Tenant in a structure with multiple units on one lot



September 18, 2021

Town of Arlington Redevelopment Board 730 Mass Ave. Annex Arlington, MA 02476

Re: Application for Special Permit Review, 645 Massachusetts Avenue – Second Review

The whom it may concern;

We would like to thank the board for their time during the August 30, 20201 Arlington Redevelopment Board meeting. The input that was provided during this meeting was taken into consideration in preparation for our second appearance on the topic of the special permits requested for this site.

To respond to some of the comments issued, we offer the following, in conjunction with the attached revised documents:

Automobile Parking Relief: It appeared, from the response from the board, that they were in favor of granting this relief, on the grounds of the large municipal lot behind the proposed site and the presence of on-street parking in front. NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

Bicycle Parking Relief: Per the board, no relief would be granted on the bicycle parking requirement. THE SUBMISSION MATERIALS HAVE BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT SHORT TERM BICYCLE PARKING IN FRONT OF THE PROPOSED SITE. LONG TERM PARKING WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO THE PROJECT AS WELL TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT.

Special Permit for the Installation of a Bank:

Change of Use: Chase bank is seeking a special permit to allow for a bank use greater than 2,000 sf within the B5 District, as required by the zoning by-laws. Additionally, the previous use was a restaurant, requiring a change of use to the proposed bank (business) use. THE BOARD WAS SPLIT ON THE TOPIC. CHASE BANK REQUESTED A CONTINUATION IN ORDER TO ASSEMBLE ADDITIONAL PRESENTATION MATERIALS AND HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM CHASE BANK PRESENT TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT. Façade: The board recommended changing the existing gridded windows to match the proposed new windows. THE RENDERINGS HAVE BEEN REVISED TO INCORPORATE THIS CHANGE Sidewalk Amenities: The previously proposed plan reflected the removal of the existing benches and planters. The board recommended retaining this component of the exterior. THE RENDERINGS HAVE BEEN REVISED TO INCORPORATE THIS CHANGE



Accessibility: The board questioned why the vestibule at the rear of the building was not being made accessible and requested studying the addition of a ramp or a wheelchair lift. THERE ARE MULTIPLE EXISTING CONSTRAINTS THAT WILL LIMIT THE ABILITY TO MAKE THE REAR DOOR FULLY ACCESSIBLE, INCLUDING IMPACTS TO THE UPPER-LEVEL TENANT ENTRANCE, EXISTING (MUNICIPAL) PARKING LOT, AND SIDEWALK ALONG DAVID LAMSON WAY. IN SPITE OF THESE CONSTRAINTS, CHASE WILL CONTINUE TO ENDEAVOR TO STUDY THESE CONDITIONS AND EVALUATE THE VIABILITY OF AN ACCESSIBLE REAR ENTRANCE. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS RESERVED ACCESSIBLE STREET PARKING ON MASS AVE NEAR THE FRONT ENTRANCE, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE BANK AND ATM VESTIBULE.

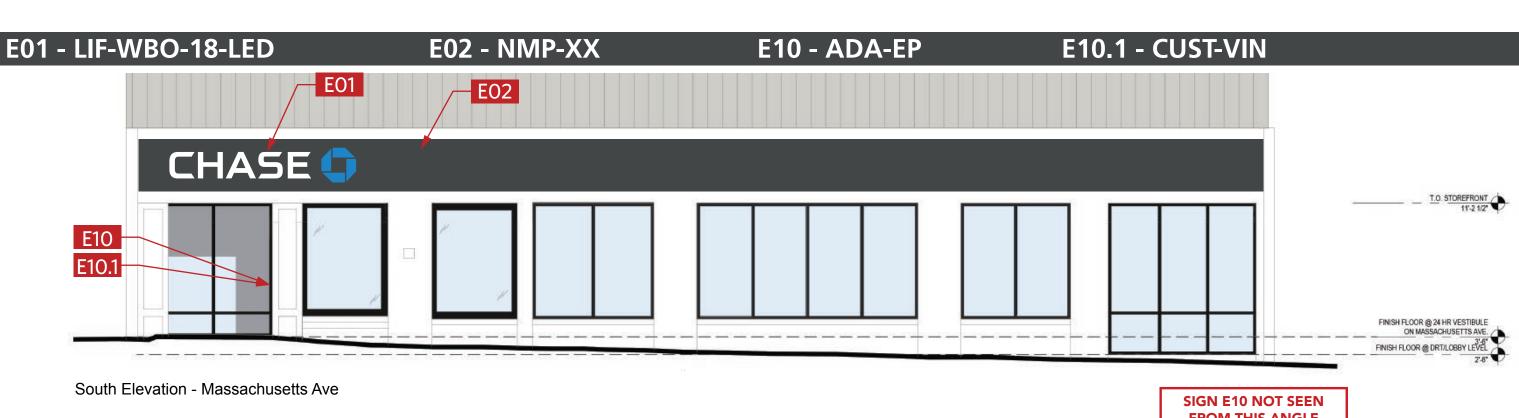
Signage: The board was not in favor of the proposed blade sign. They believed the sign was not in keeping with other signage in the Central Business District as asked if we could consider moving the sign on the gray band along the alley side of the building. THE RENDERINGS HAVE BEEN REVISED TO INCORPORATE THIS CHANGE

We look forward to the opportunity to meet with the board again to review this project. Please let us know if anything additional is required.

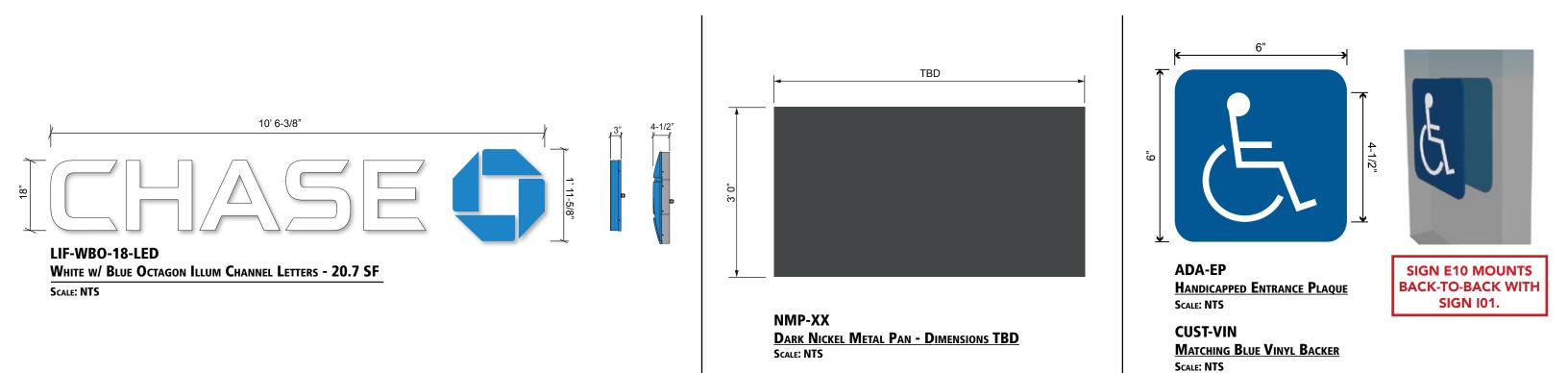
Sincerely,

James Lalli Director of Architecture - Financial 908.462.9949 | jlalli@core-states.com





FROM THIS ANGLE





CHS.NB.961 - Arlington Mass Avenue

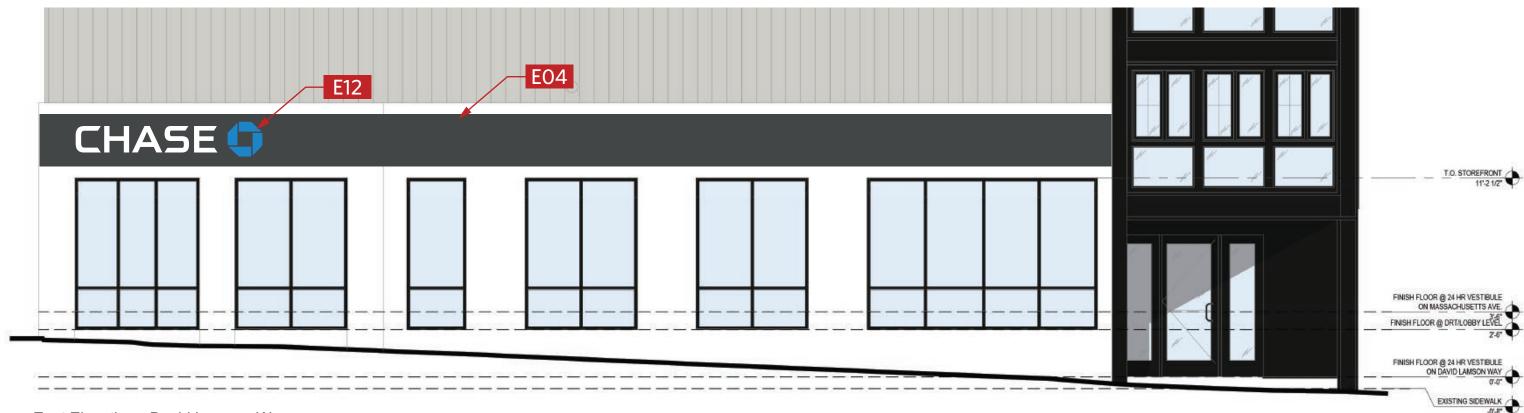
645 Massachusetts Avenue Arlington, MA 02476

DESIGNER - JM

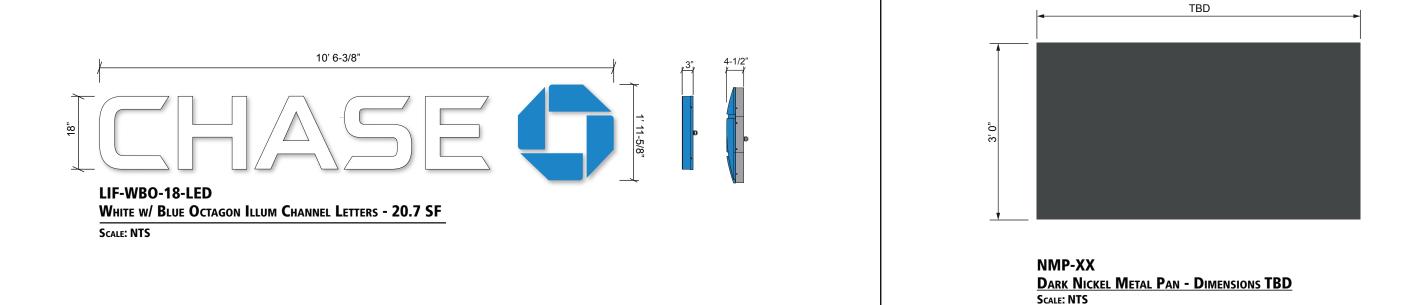
CREATED - 06.17.21

DRAWING - B95122





East Elevation - David Lamson Way





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Arlington, MA 02476

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CREATED - 06.17.21

DRAWING - B95122







LIF-WBO-14-LED

WHITE W/ BLUE OCTAGON ILLUM CHANNEL LETTERS - 12.7 SF

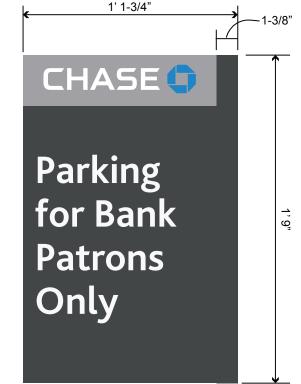
SCALE: NTS



NMP-XX DARK NICKEL METAL PAN - DIMENSIONS TBD SCALE: NTS

CHS.NB.961 - Arlington Mass Avenue

645 Massachusetts Avenue Arlington, MA 02476



TC-W-A-RE WALL MOUNTED REGULATORY SIGN (RE-ENGINEERED) - 2SF SCALE: NTS



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SCALE: NTS



CHASE

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING - CORNER ELEVATION





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ARCHITECTURAL ELEVATION - MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE





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DESIGNER - JM

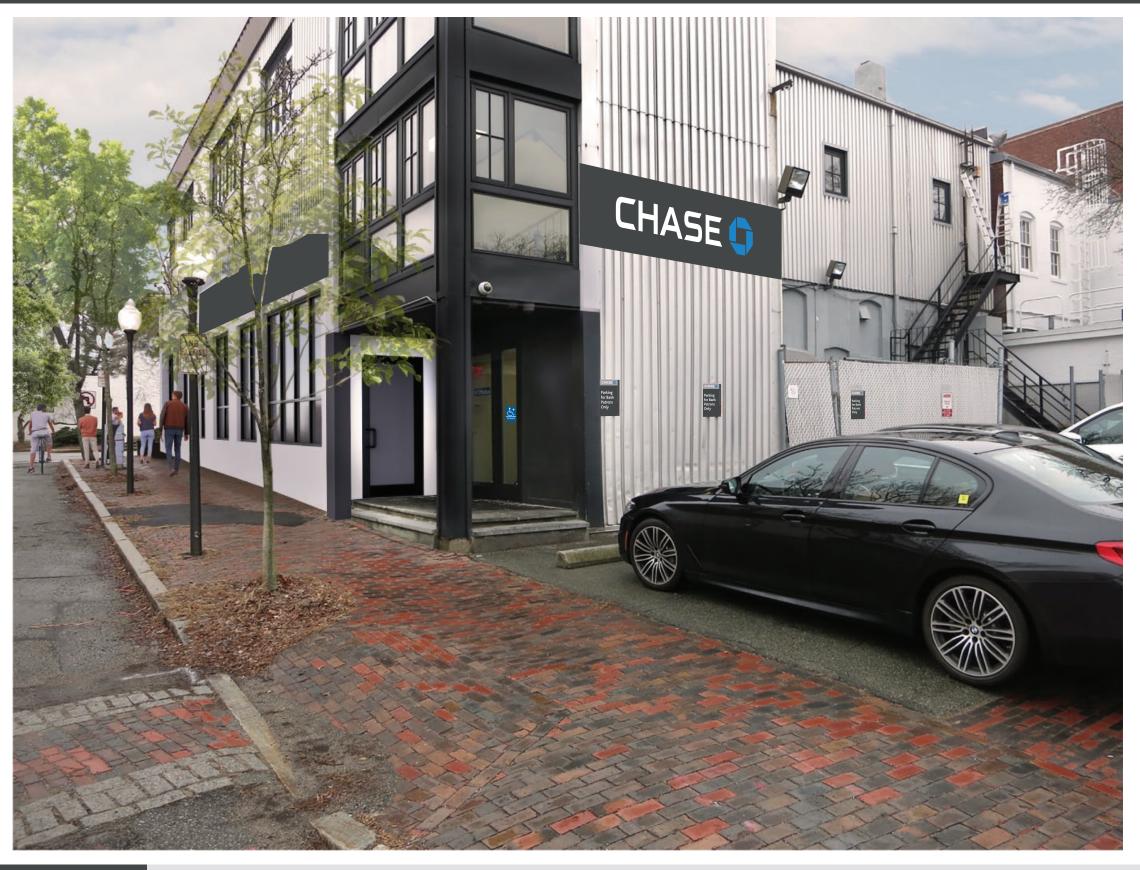
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ARCHITECTURAL ELEVATION - DAVID LAMSON WAY ELEVATION





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Survey Photos























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Approach Photos











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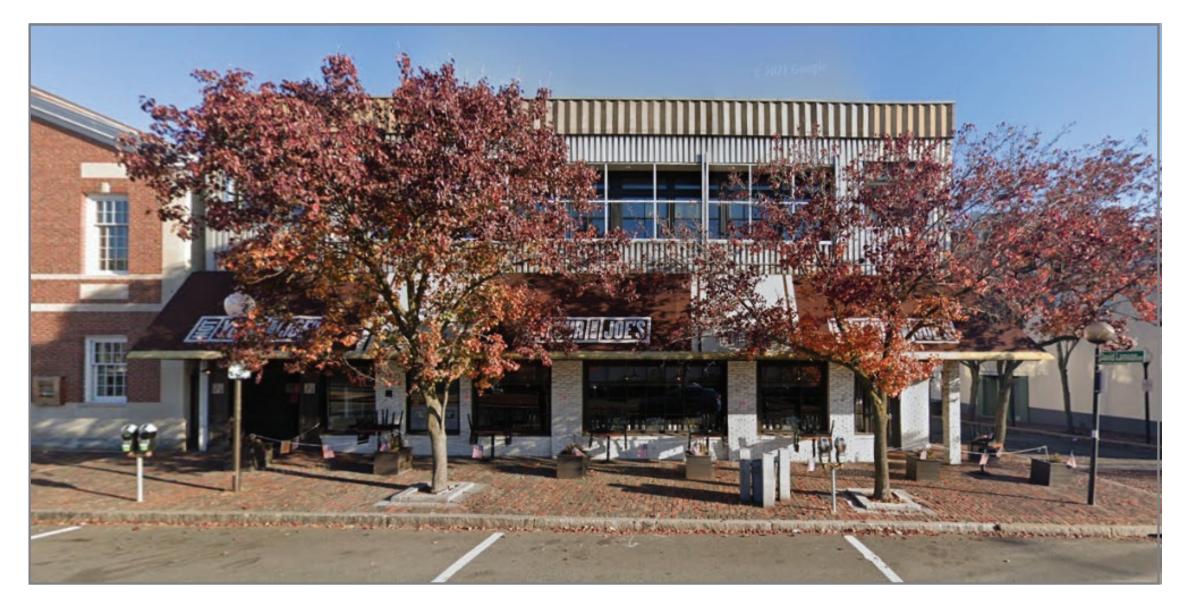
ARLINGTON MASS AVENUE

645 Massachusetts Avenue Arlington, MA 02476









REVISION NOTES:

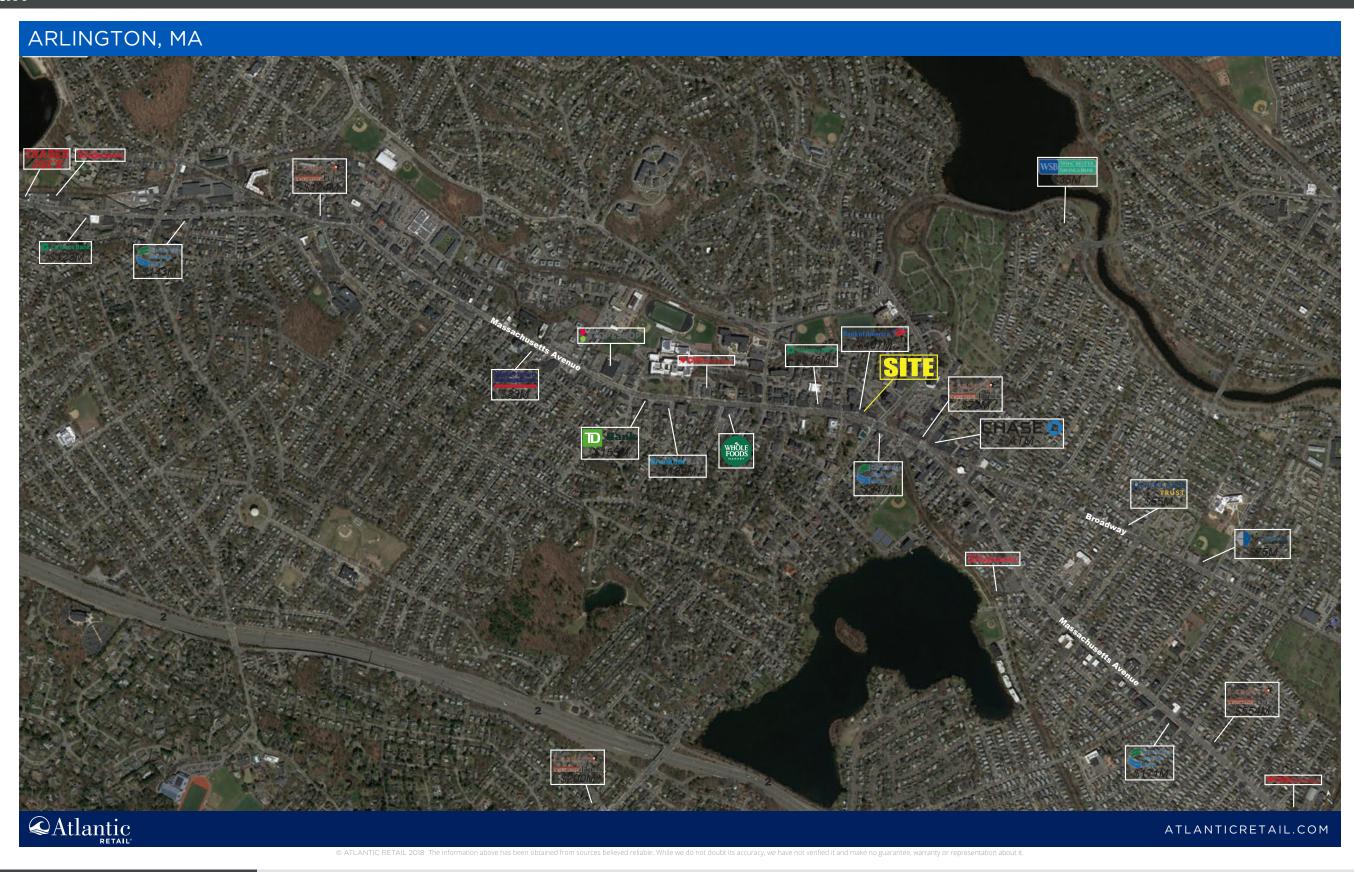
Delete Octagons from All Awnings. Add Option 2, E12 and E13

Revised as noted. 07.01.21

Delete E03, add lettersets & elevations. 09.09.21 RJW



Aerial Plan





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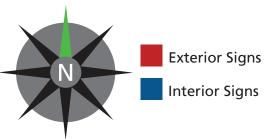


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Site Plan

Exterior Scope of Work				
E01	LIF-WBO-18-LED	White w/ Blue Octagon Illum Channel Letters	20.7 sF	
E02	NMP-XX	Dark Nickel Metal Panel		
E04	NMP-XX	Dark Nickel Metal Panel		
E05	LIF-WBO-14-LED	White w/ Blue Octagon Illum Channel Letters	12.7 sf	
E06	NMP-XX	Dark Nickel Metal Panel		
E07	TC-W-A-RE	WALL MTD REGULATORY SIGN - BANK PATRONS ONLY (RE-	Engineered) 2sf	
E08	TC-W-A-RE	WALL MTD REGULATORY SIGN - BANK PATRONS ONLY (RE-	Engineered) 2sf	
E09	TC-W-A-RE	WALL MTD REGULATORY SIGN - BANK PATRONS ONLY (RE-	Engineered) 2sf	
E12	LIF-WBO-18-LED	White w/ Blue Octagon Illum Channel Letters	20.7 sF	

ALL SIGNS TO BE REVIEWED/APPROVED **BY HRC**





E07 E05 E06 Cats Hospital JR Burke Salon Arlington Involution Solutions Bank of America Financial Center 645 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02476 Susan Stamps 645(65) Law Offices Massachusetts Ave E04 E12 dwell Banker Realty - Arlington E01 E02 Frances Allegra Gosselin & Kyriakidis PC **ATM** Fizsimmons Law Office

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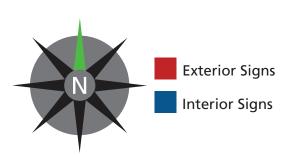


E08

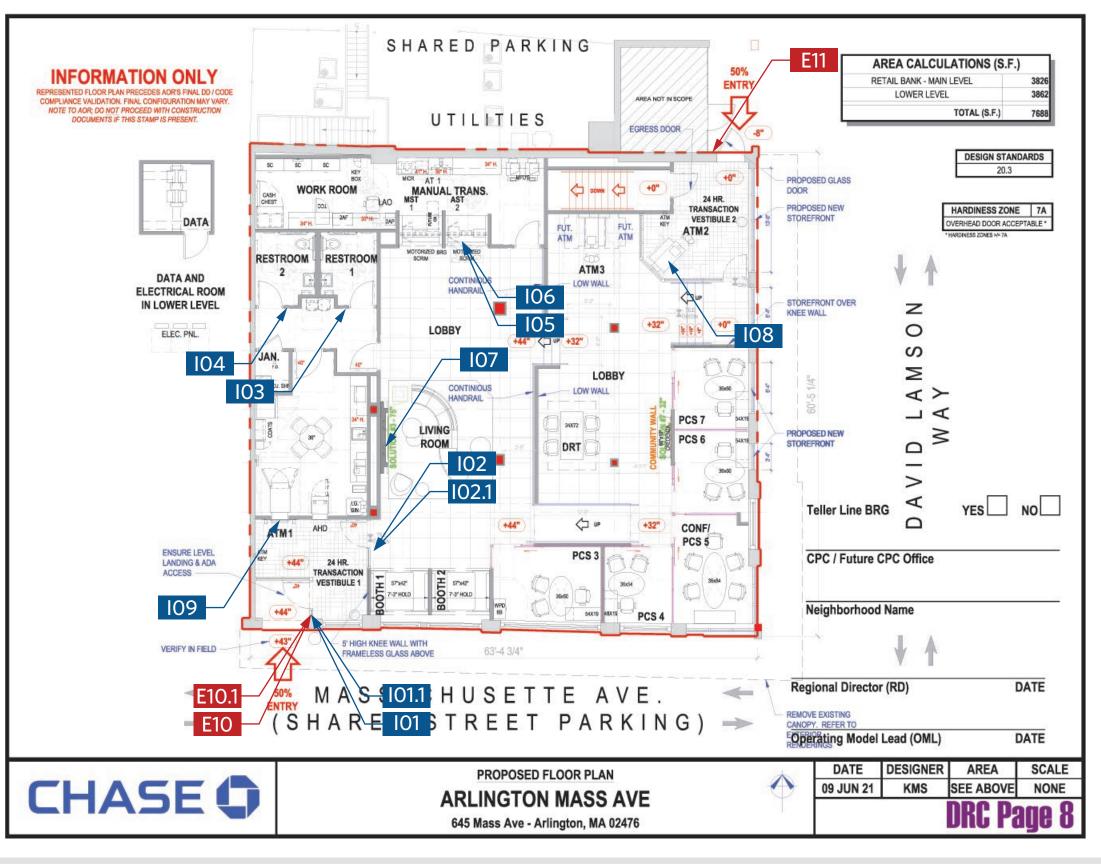
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Floor Plan

Int	erior Scope o	of Work	
101	ADA-EX	ADA HANDICAPPED EXIT PLAQUE	. 25 sf
101.1	CUST-VIN	MATCHING BRONZE VINYL BACKER	
102	ADA-EX	ADA HANDICAPPED EXIT PLAQUE	.25sf
102.1	CUST-VIN	MATCHING BRONZE VINYL BACKER	
103	ADA-RRAG-A-G	ADA ALL GENDER RESTROOM SIGN - ACCESSIBLE	1.4 SF
104	ADA-RRAG-A-G	ADA ALL GENDER RESTROOM SIGN - ACCESSIBLE	1.4 sf
105	ADA-TW	ADA TELLER WALL SIGN	.1sf
106	ADA-TW-ALS	ADA Teller Window - Assistive Listening System	.1sf
107	TPL-BTR-B-24	24" Thin Profile Illuminated Interior Blue Octagon	4sf
108	EATM-PANEL-SINGLE-	SIDE-CAR BRANDING PANEL FOR SINGLE SIDE CAR EAT	M 3.0
109	SUR-TTW-U-4-TP	ILLUMINATED THIN PROFILE ATM SURROUND	33 SF
E10	ADA-EP	ADA HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE PLAQUE	.25sF
E10.1	CUST-VIN	MATCHING BLUE VINYL BACKER	
E11	ADA-EP-NA	ADA HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE PLAQUE - NOT ACCESSIBLE	.38sF







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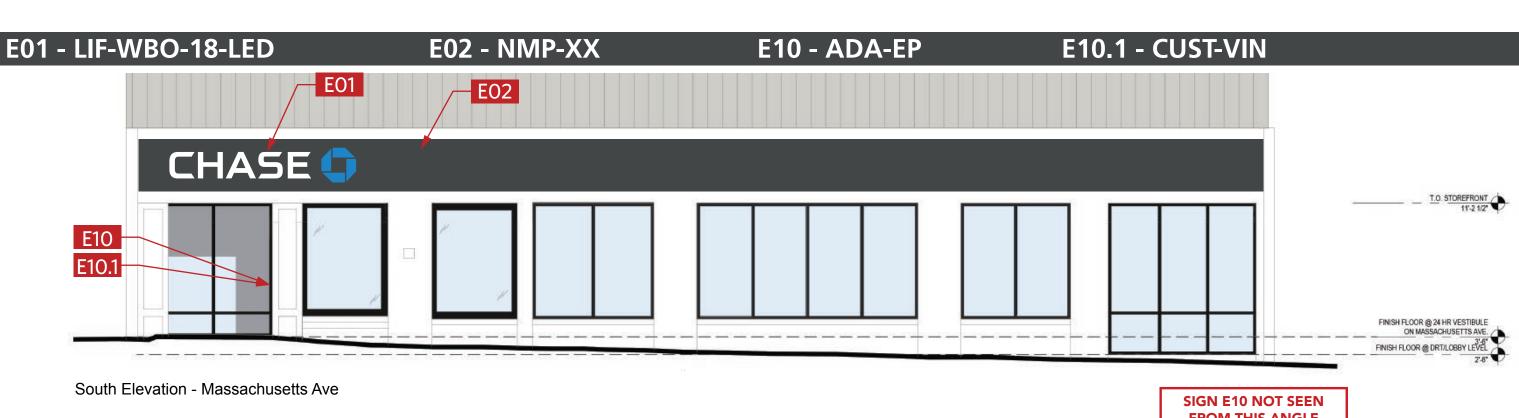
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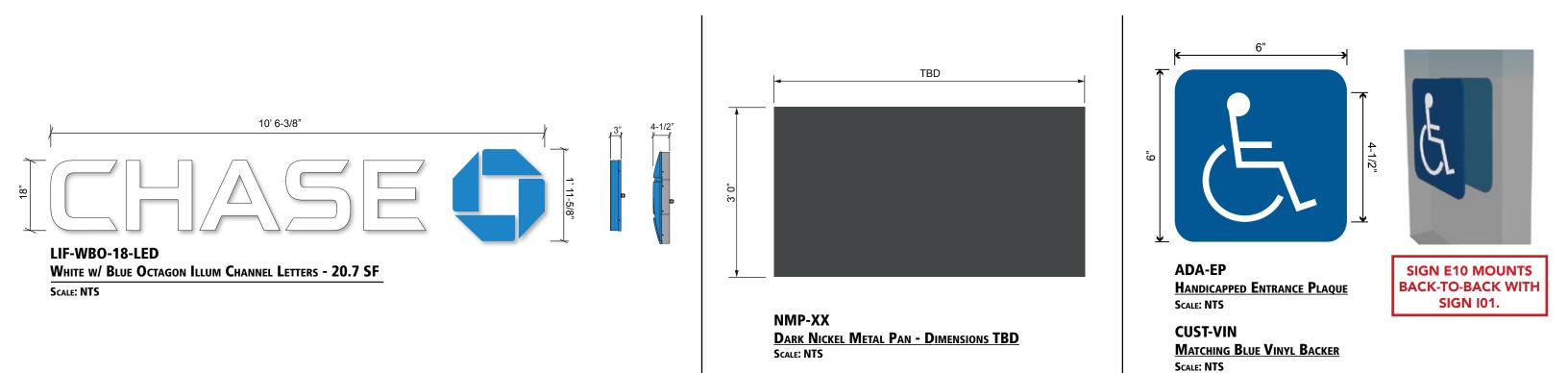
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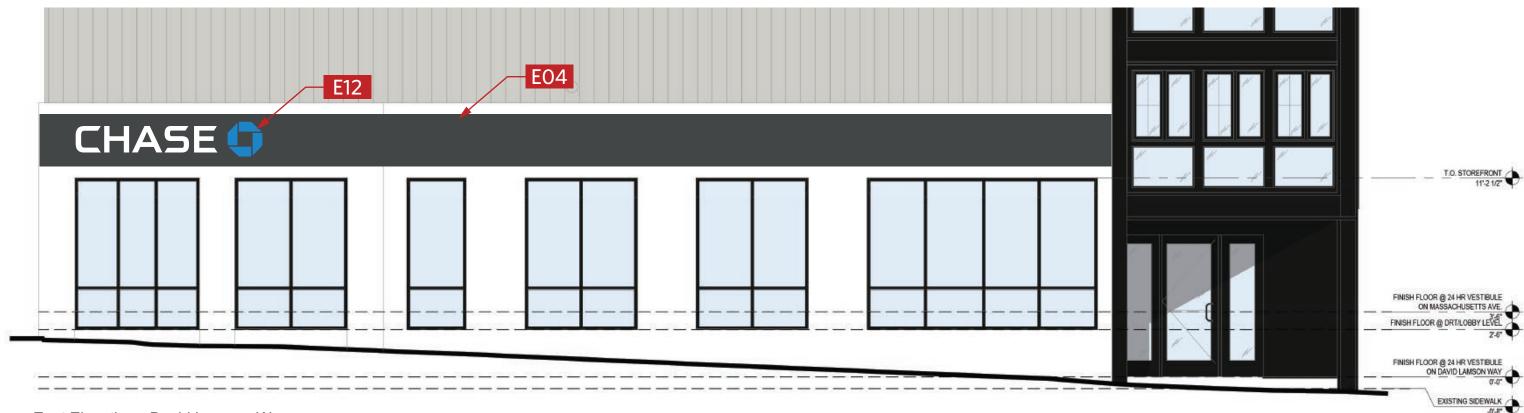
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DESIGNER - JM

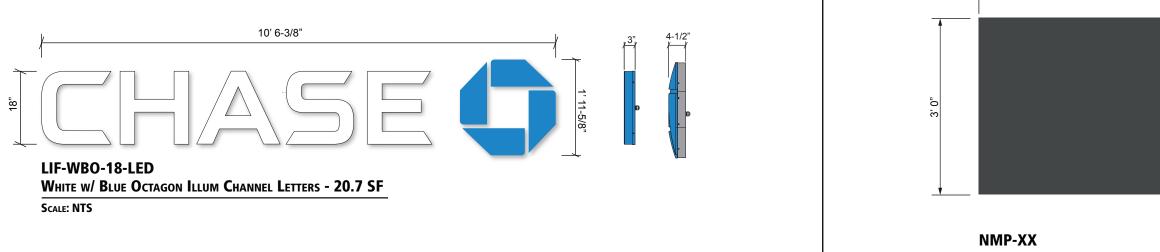
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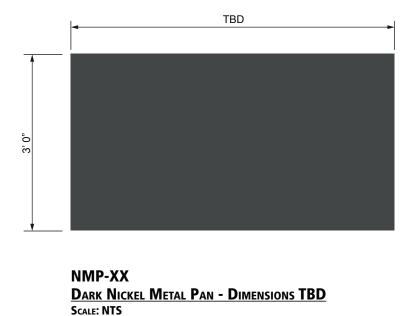
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East Elevation - David Lamson Way







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LIF-WBO-14-LED

WHITE W/ BLUE OCTAGON ILLUM CHANNEL LETTERS - 12.7 SF

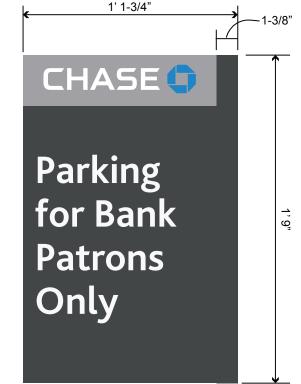
SCALE: NTS



NMP-XX DARK NICKEL METAL PAN - DIMENSIONS TBD SCALE: NTS

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TC-W-A-RE WALL MOUNTED REGULATORY SIGN (RE-ENGINEERED) - 2SF SCALE: NTS



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ENTRANCE

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SCALE: NTS



CHASE

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING - CORNER ELEVATION





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ARCHITECTURAL ELEVATION - MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE





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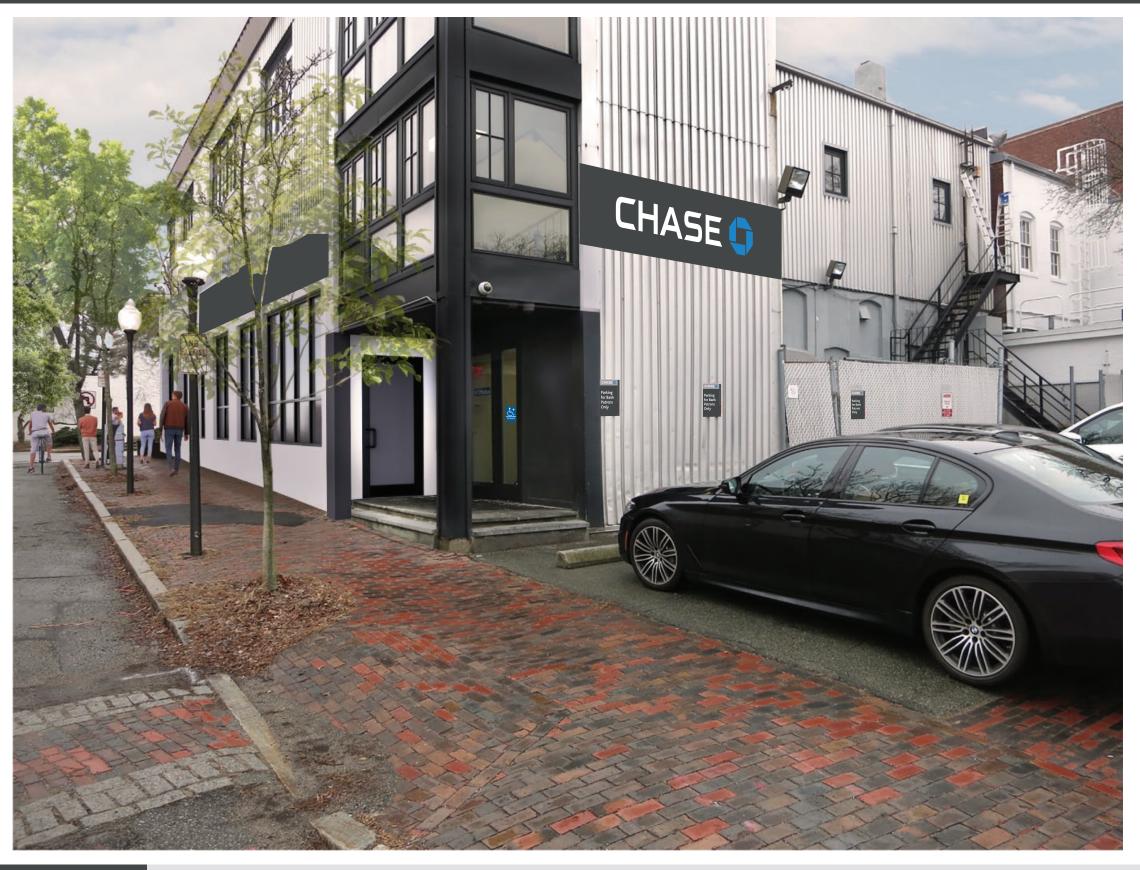
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ARCHITECTURAL ELEVATION - DAVID LAMSON WAY ELEVATION





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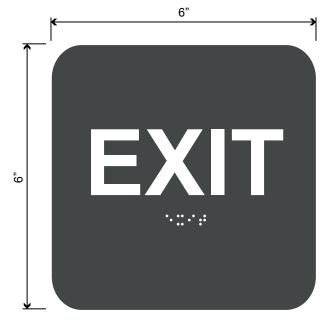
DESIGNER - JM

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DRAWING - B95122



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ADA-EX

HANDICAPPED EXIT PLAQUE

SCALE: NTS

CUST-VIN

MATCHING BRONZE VINYL BACKER

SCALE: NTS

SIGN I01 MOUNTS BACK-TO-BACK WITH SIGN E10.

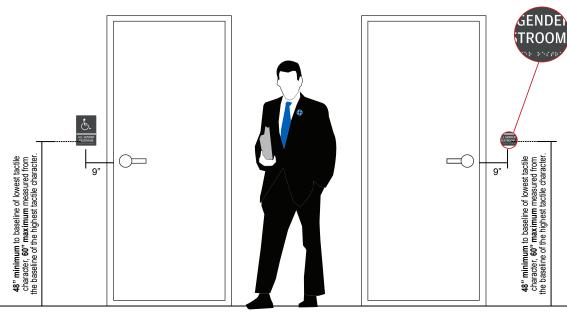




ADA-RRAG-A-G All Gender Neutral Restroom Signage for Restrooms that ARE Accessible

- Tactile sign identifying an accessible restroom entrance.
- Mounted on the wall, next to the door, on the latch side of the door.
- Acrylic tactile signs designed to meet Federal ADA 2010 ADAAG standards.





If latch is on left side of door, sign installed on left side

If latch is on right side of door, sign installed on right side



CHS.NB.961 - Arlington Mass Avenue

645 Massachusetts Avenue Arlington, MA 02476

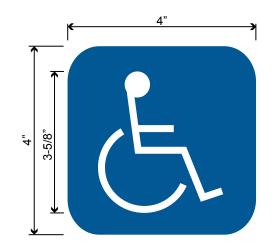
DESIGNER - JM

CREATED - 06.17.21

DRAWING - B95122



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ADA-TW ADA TELLER WALL SIGN SCALE: NTS



ADA-TW-ALS ADA TELLER WALL SIGN - ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM SCALE: NTS



Placement at Modular Teller Stations with Bullet-Resistant Glass



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DESIGNER - JM

CREATED - 06.17.21

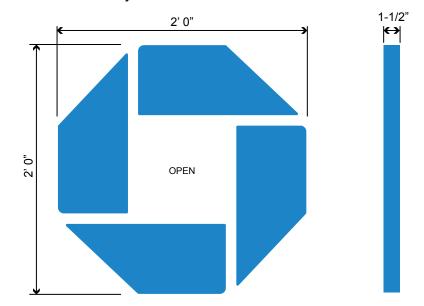
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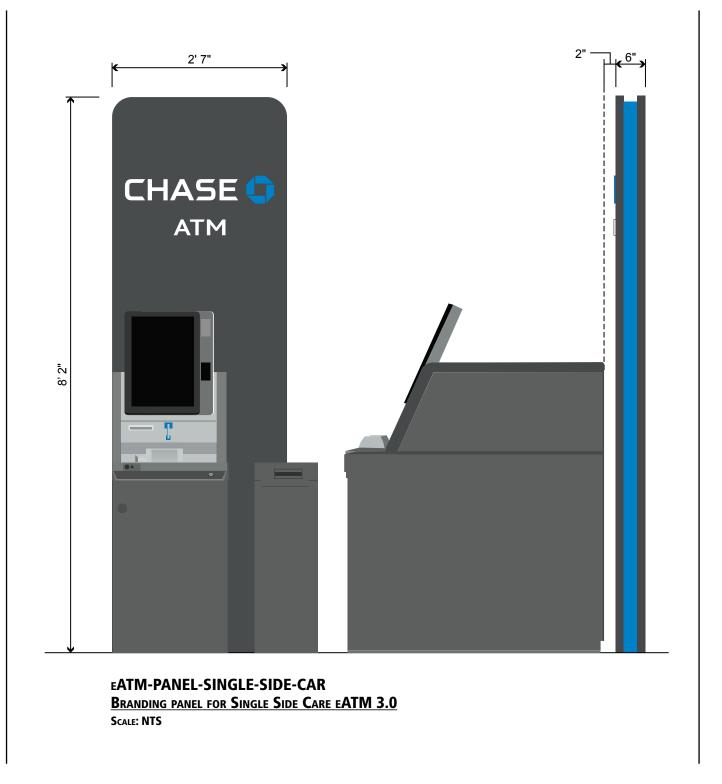


For Reference Only



TPL-BTR-B-24 24" Thin Profile Illuminated Interior Blue Octagon - 4se SCALE: NTS

NOTE: Octagon to be Purchased from Bitro.



CHASE 🛑

SUR-TTW-U-4-TP THIN PROFILE ATM SURROUND - 33SF SCALE: NTS



CHS.NB.961 - Arlington Mass Avenue

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DESIGNER - JM

CREATED - 06.17.21

DRAWING - B95122



Survey Photos























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Approach Photos











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Code Allowances - Completed by Sign Vendor

General Info				
Zoning Designation	B-5, Central Business			
Temporary Signs				
Is the 8' x 4' Coming Soon Ground Sign Allowed? If so, how many?	Downtown location not suitable for F/S signs			
Are temporary banners allowed? If so, for how long?	n/a			
Are fly guys allowed? If so, for how long?	n/a			
Primary Ground Sign				
Will code allow our standard pylon or monument? If yes, which one (ex. P-100, P-75, M-50, M-25, refer to reference guide for all standard	Downtown location not suitable for F/S signs			
options). Is more than 1 primary ground sign allowed? If not, what are the pylon / monument restrictions? (include illumination	n/a			
restrictions/overall allowable sf / custom design requirements) List the set back requirements.	 n/a			
•	IIVa			
Building Sign	A sing and the A of CE Built-Course of Built-Course			
Prototypical FS branch - Will code allow our standard illuminated bldg. sign package (30" letterset on front & sides, 24" letterset on the rear)? Please list size and locations of signs allowed.	1 sign per street, no SF limitations; no flashing/blinking			
If not, what are the variables/restrictions (include illumination and sf restrictions, as well as custom sign requirements)?	n/a			
In-line / Urban branch - what are the exterior wall sign restrictions (sign type, including max. sf and illumination).	n/a			
Interior Window Signs- List all interior window signs restrictions, including storefront set back requirements.	25% window area			
ATM Topper- does this count against our overall allowable sf.? Is illumination allowed?	ATM signs subject to review and approval			
Are decorative logos allowed (EFIS octagon)? Does it count against overall SF?	n/a			
Directional / Regulatory Signs				
Is our standard directional and regulatory sign package allowed?	Downtown location not suitable for F/S signs			
If not, what are the variables/restrictions?	n/a			
Awnings / ATM Sunscreens				
Are branded awnings allowed?	yes			
What if any restrictions are there (Illumination, color/materials, min & max projection)?	8' clearance, no SF limitation, see add'l comments			
Are ATM sunscreens allowed? Do they count against overall SF?	ATM signs subject to review and approval			
Other Governing Agencies				
Identify other governing agencies that could override code (ARB, HRB, PUD, etc) and list the known restrictions.	ALL SIGNS TO BE REVIEWD AND APROVED BY the ARLINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION			
Permitting / Variance Process				
What is the application process and timing for variance approval? What are the variance application fees?	2-3 months			
What is the likelihood of being granted a variance with this municipality?	25			
Architectural Lighting				
Is Architectural lighting allowed? Does it count against overall SF? List provisions.	no flashing/blinking. NO SIGNS TO BE ILLUMINATED FROM 12am - 6am			
Additional Comments				
Please list any additional comments	Permitted 2 of the following categories of signs:			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	well sign, window sign, awaing sign			

From: Sarah Tuttle <s_g_tuttle@yahoo.com>

To: "jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us" < jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us>

Date: Sun, 12 Sep 2021 00:17:51 +0000 (UTC)

Subject: Comment on Proposed Chase Branch in Arlington Center

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To Whom It May Concern on the Redevelopment Board,

I am writing as a resident of Arlington regarding the proposed branch of Chase Bank where Not Your Average Joe's used to be on MA Ave in Arlington Center. I sincerely hope that the location does not become a bank of any sort. To be frank-- in Arlington we have so many banks. I am very, very tired of seeing so many store fronts taken up with financial institutions. The location of the property is one of the best in Arlington-- right across from the library, in the heart of the center, with a huge space. It should be used for something that the community can engage with-- not yet another bank. There is already a large Citizen's Bank on one side of the block, and a large Bank of America property on the other side. Yet another bank in such a prime real estate location would be a waste of an opportunity to invite a business with real value to residents. We need restaurants, shops, and other businesses that invite folks to linger in the center. Businesses that the community wants to patronize. Locations that are fun to browse, or comfortable to gather. We don't need yet another reason to drive by our most accessible, valuable commercial real estate.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Sincerely, Sarah Tuttle

Resident-- Grove St. Arlington

From: "Matthew C. Guyton" <mcguyton@mit.edu> **Date:** September 14, 2021 at 1:51:43 PM EDT

To: JRaitt@town.arlington.ma.us, ebenson@town.arlington.ma.us, KLau@town.arlington.ma.us,

mtintocalis@town.arlington.ma.us, rzsembery@town.arlington.ma.us

Cc: srevilak@town.arlington.ma.us Subject: Chase Bank - please deny

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Dear Redevelopment Board,

I am writing to ask you to deny the special permit for Chase Bank to replace Not Your Average Joe's.

As a frequent pedestrian in Arlington Center (especially around mealtimes), Not Your Average Joe's was what I consider an "anchor restaurant". You could walk out to the food destination of Arlington Center with the intention of patronizing one of the smaller restaurants, and if those restaurants were too busy, your backup plan could be to eat at Not Your Average Joe's, and vice versa. In this manner, the large restaurant helped drive business for the smaller restaurants. For this reason, I expect that if a restaurant does not soon replace NYAJ's, then Pasha and Thai Moon will soon go out of business. I realize that denying Chase's special permit won't bring NYAJ's back, but it will give up the opportunity for a new restaurant to open in this location before giving it a chance (and before the pandemic ends).

Frequently on our walks around the Center, my wife and I would complain about the prevalence of banks and how they ruin the walkable character of the town. The corner of Mass Ave and Pleasant has a plethora of financial institutions (listed going counterclockwise): Cambridge Bank, Coldwell Banker (not a bank, but sounds like one), Chase Bank requesting to go where NYAJ used to be, and Bank of America leaving no good reason for pedestrians to walk to that part of the Center. Walking West up Mass Ave, the Citizen's Bank drive-thru exit creates a good place to get hit by a car, which makes me cautious when out with my young son. Walking further west up Mass Ave, the cluster of Brookline Bank, Leader Bank's lending center, and TD Bank creates another dead zone for pedestrians (made even worse by Lender Bank's large empty parking lot and crumbling brick planters that have sat unfixed for months). Keeping the Center a walkable area for pedestrians is important for businesses, because all customers are pedestrians. Banks violate this goal and are a poor use of space in the center of town.

Seeing a physical bank is like seeing a piece of history (and not in the good historical way that we strive for in Arlington). Does anyone still use physical bank locations? I have bought a house, refinanced it many times, and bought a car, all without ever visiting a physical bank location. I can't remember the last time I've physically been to a bank, and the last time I went, I was just there for a lollipop. I don't see how these locations are profitable for the banks, except that they serve as expensive billboards which would otherwise not be allowed in Arlington.

Banks are ghost towns in the evening and make the area less walkable. I believe you should be trying to drive most of the banks out of the Center, not letting more banks in. If you let Chase bank replace NYAJ's, then you have essentially given up on having a vibrant welcoming town center in Arlington. (For the record, I'm not opposed to having Chase bank or any other bank in town - I just don't want to see them located at the main corner of Arlington Center).

-Matt Guyton

22 Irving St