



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DAVID E. WOJNAR., Chairman
GARRY L. RAWCLIFFE
KEVIN GASPAR, SR.

ALAN G. COUTINHO
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF ACUSHNET
122 MAIN STREET, ACUSHNET, MA 02743
**OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

TEL.: (508) 998-0200
FAX: (508) 998-0203

Mr. Dennis Farias
Office of the City Clerk
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

February 18, 2016

Dear Mr. Farias:

Thank you, on behalf of the Acushnet Board of Selectmen, for forwarding to the town a copy of the January 14, 2016 written motion by Councilors Winterson, Coelho, Lopes and Carney relative to treatment facilities in our community for individuals suffering from substance abuse. The Board has asked me to respond on their behalf.

We would like to commend the City Council for understanding that the opioid crisis impacts every city and town across the Commonwealth and across the country. All municipalities have seen a sharp increase in services rendered, particularly public safety resources, to stem the flow of drugs into our neighborhoods and to respond to those who experience medical emergencies due to their addictions.

With specific reference to the questions raised in the Council's motion, Acushnet, like most municipalities, does not operate any town financed drug treatment facilities. It is our understanding that the treatment facilities in our area are privately owned and operated, not an extension of municipal government. In addition, a review of records maintained by our planning and building departments indicate that there have not been any proposals submitted for local government review for treatment facilities presently or in the past several years. Please know that if such a proposal were to be submitted it would receive impartial consideration by our various professional staff and appointed boards.

The lack of private entities coming to our community does not in any way indicate a lack of effort by the town in response to this crisis. Acushnet has been, and will remain, mutual aid partners with the city of New Bedford relative to public safety needs. Last year alone, we dispatched our one staffed ambulance to New Bedford on 53 separate

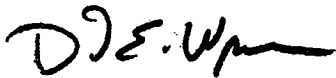
occasions with several of the medical emergencies being drug related. Our police department continues to work shoulder to shoulder with New Bedford's finest in both emergency response and drug related investigations. We do not envision any changes to this strong level of cooperation as we work through the realities of the opioid crisis.

We appreciate the stresses placed on urban areas like New Bedford when dealing with the issue of substance abuse. Please know that this crisis has impacted Acushnet residents, families and first responders. In direct response to a sharp increase in heroin and prescription drug related emergencies last year we initiated a very visible public awareness campaign that showed our residents the extent of the problem locally. Further, we have created a unique program that has the paramedic that treated the overdose victim returning to the residence along with a member of the Greater New Bedford Inter Church Council and a counselor from PACCA (Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction). The paramedic trades in on the relationship built during their interaction with the substance abuser for access in the days immediately following the overdose. Once access is made the clergy member and drug counselor provides the individual with a description of local services as well as a compassionate shoulder to lean on.


Early indications is that this program is having a positive impact as we responded to our first heroin overdose of 2016 thirty-eight days into the new year. We stand ready to share the particulars of this program with the Council if requested.

Again, thank you for informing us of the City Council's interest in what this municipality is doing in response to this national epidemic.

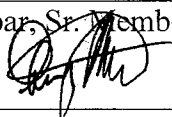
Sincerely,



David E. Wojnar, Chairman



Kevin Gaspar, Sr. Member



Garry L. Rawcliffe, Member
Acushnet Board of Selectmen



City of New Bedford
MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
133 WILLIAM STREET
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740-6182
Tel: 508-979-1450 • Fax: 508-991-6225

Dennis W. Farias
CITY CLERK

Stephanie Macomber
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

Susan M. Henriques
ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK

January 22, 2016

Mr. Alan Coutinho
Town Administrator
Town Hall, 122 Main Street
Acushnet, MA 02743

Dear Mr. Coutinho:

I am writing to inform you that at a meeting held on January 14, 2016, the New Bedford City Council Adopted a Written Motion by Councillors Winterson, Coelho, Lopes and Carney, *"Requesting, that the surrounding Towns of Freetown, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Mattapoisett, Marion, Fairhaven and Wareham inform the City Council what their current treatment plans are regarding the utilization of Town properties, or future site plans relative to the opioid crisis; and further, are there any treatment centers or plans for inpatient or outpatient services in these Towns, as the resources of the City of New Bedford are being exhausted due to the influx of residents of these surrounding Towns coming to New Bedford and expending our services"*.

As such, the Council respectfully requests your support and assistance in its effort to bring about a positive resolution to this important matter. On behalf of the entire City Council, I thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to contact me directly should you or your office require additional information.

With kind regards,

Dennis W. Farias
City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council

cc: Kerry Winterson, Councillor Ward Five
Debora Coelho, Councillor at Large
Naomi R.A. Carney, Councillor at Large
Joseph P. Lopes, Councillor Ward Six
File

DARTMOUTH



MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Select Board

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David G. Cressman

Town Administrator

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CITY CLERK
2016 MAR -4 A 11:13
NEW BEDFORD, MA

March 2, 2016

City of New Bedford
Office of the City Clerk
Dennis W. Farias
133 William St
New Bedford, MA 02740-6182

Dear Mr. Farias,

In response to your January 22, 2016 letter on behalf of the New Bedford City Council, please be advised that within the past year, the Town of Dartmouth has welcomed South Coast Behavioral Health Center which is a 120 bed psychiatric facility which we are certain treats individuals who have opioid addictions. Ironically, we learned that Fall River turned down this facility several years ago. Additionally, Dartmouth also hosts another facility focused on providing methadone treatment/monitoring.

The Town's Public Health Director and Youth Advocate have initiated an Opioid Task Force including participation from the School and Police Departments plus the community. This task force has arranged to hold several events this Spring to focus on this issue. Additionally, they are involved in a country-wide task force.

The Select Board recognizes that this is an issue that knows no borders and welcomes a regional approach more than the outburst which occurred at the City Council meeting resulting in your letter.

However, said regional approach will not be effective unless it includes stakeholders who can control the proliferation of prescriptions which are hooking many individuals into a drug dependency and addresses the flow of drugs into our communities.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Cressman
Town Administrator



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MASSACHUSETTS

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Susan M. Henriques
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January 22, 2016

Mr. David Cressman
Town Administrator
Town Hall, 400 Slocum Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Dear Mr. Cressman:

I am writing to inform you that at a meeting held on January 14, 2016, the New Bedford City Council Adopted a Written Motion by Councillors Winterson, Coelho, Lopes and Carney, *"Requesting, that the surrounding Towns of Freetown, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Mattapoisett, Marion, Fairhaven and Wareham inform the City Council what their current treatment plans are regarding the utilization of Town properties, or future site plans relative to the opioid crisis; and further, are there any treatment centers or plans for inpatient or outpatient services in these Towns, as the resources of the City of New Bedford are being exhausted due to the influx of residents of these surrounding Towns coming to New Bedford and expending our services"*.

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With kind regards,

Dennis W. Farias
City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council

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