



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

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Linda M. Morad

Councillor at Large

November 14, 2016

New Bedford Planning Board
Chairperson Dawicki,
New Bedford City Hall
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Reference: Planning Board Meeting Agenda of November 16, 2016
Case # 31-16 and 32-16

Dear Chairperson Dawicki and Members of the New Bedford Planning Board:

I am writing in reference to the petition of the Southeastern Massachusetts Veterans Housing Program, Inc. and the Women's Development Corporation, which is to be heard by the Members of the Planning Board on Wednesday, November 16, 2016.

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the meeting due to a conflict with a previously scheduled business meeting being conducted at the same date and time. I would however like to offer my support for both the petition for new construction of multiple units of affordable housing for veterans and families and for a reduction in parking.

As you are aware in reading the application submitted, the developer is looking to demolish the existing building and build a new 20,370 square foot facility that will have thirty permanent veteran housing units accompanied by a dining facility and a dedicated social services area. The new building will incorporate significant neighborhood cosmetic improvements from the existing structure; include modern construction, outdoor patios, plantings and green space.

The Southeastern Massachusetts Veterans Housing Program which currently operates the Veterans Transition House on the adjacent property is an important support organization for Veterans in the Greater New Bedford area, providing housing and services to Veterans and their families. It is wonderful that they have chosen to expand the New Bedford facility. I strongly support the petitions before you and would like to be recorded in full support.

Please read *this letter into the record* of the New Bedford Planning Board meeting to make those in attendance and the general public aware of my enthusiastic support of both Case 31-16 and 32-16.

In advance, thank you for your attention to my correspondence and your favorable consideration of these two Planning Board petitions.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Morad
Councillor At Large