



Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**

Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor  
Dennis DeMarinis, Chair

May 16, 2018

Honorable Linda M. Morad  
City Council President  
City Hall – 133 William St.  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: City Hall Elevator

Dear Councillor Morad:

At last night's meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, the members voted unanimously to endorse the proposal to install an additional elevator at City Hall.

During the various occurrences of the current elevator being broken down, it has caused a disservice to constituents and staff who have limited mobility. Any time a public meeting is scheduled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> floor when the elevator is out of service, the ADA requires the meeting to be moved to an accessible location, which is not always easy to do – especially on short notice. Further, as Director Blanchard referenced, tri-lingual accommodation signage is required to be posted at each building entrance and staircase (on all floors) directing the public to specific 1<sup>st</sup> floor offices where they can be assisted. Space needs to be designated for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor departments to meet constituents and address their concerns on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor; however, such space is not always available.

In addition to constituent access, there may be staff who work in the basement or on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors who may have medical conditions/mobility issues that require them NOT to climb stairs. They are protected under the ADA and are entitled to an accessible work space which is not always easy to find.

I applaud the City for taking steps to move forward on this project that will allow access to citizens of all abilities.

Sincerely,

Dennis P. DeMarinis, Jr.  
Chairperson  
Commissions for Citizen's with Disabilities