



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

February 19, 2019

City Council President Linda M. Morad and  
Honorable Members of the City Council  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am asking for your approval of a residency waiver for Elizabeth Lydon, a candidate to fill the vacant position of Associate City Solicitor. Ms. Lydon currently resides in Rochester, Massachusetts.

I am also asking for Council approval of Ms. Lydon's salary at Step 3, Grade M-12 (\$74,900). The basis for this recommendation is detailed in the enclosed letter from City Solicitor Mikaela McDermott.

Jane Medeiros Friedman, First Assistant City Solicitor, and Elizabeth Lydon will be available at the City Council meeting to answer any questions you may have.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan F. Mitchell  
Mayor

JFM/sds

Attachments

cc: Mikaela McDermott, City Solicitor  
Elizabeth Lydon



*City of New Bedford*  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY SOLICITOR**

**MIKAELA A. McDERMOTT**  
*City Solicitor*

**JANE MEDEIROS FRIEDMAN**  
*First Assistant City Solicitor*

**ERIC JAIKES**  
**KREG R. ESPINOLA**  
*Assistant City Solicitors*

**SHANNON C. SHREVE**  
**ERIC C. COHEN**  
**JOHN E. FLOR**  
**THOMAS J. MATHIEU**  
**ELIZABETH TREADUP PIO**  
*Associate City Solicitors*

February 13, 2019

Mayor Jonathan F. Mitchell  
City of New Bedford  
133 William Street, Room 311  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Recommendation of Elizabeth Lydon for Associate City Solicitor position

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

As you know, the Solicitor's Office has an Associate City Solicitor vacancy due to the retirement of Attorney Shannon Shreve. In January, First Assistant City Solicitor Jane Medeiros Friedman and I interviewed six candidates to fill this vacancy. Following these interviews, I am recommending that we hire Elizabeth Lydon for the position and that we request a residency waiver from the City Council and authorization to hire Elizabeth at the pay grade of M-12, Step 3.

Elizabeth is currently a Hearing Officer at the Department of Public Utilities (DPU), and prior to attending law school, she served as a regulatory officer at the Cape Cod Commission. These positions, along with her service on various municipal boards, have provided Elizabeth with a unique blend of experience that will enable her to take over much of Shannon Shreve's portfolio, which included energy, zoning and planning matters, and to assume additional responsibilities.

Elizabeth has worked on numerous complex matters that are relevant to the city, such as renewable energy projects, electric vehicle initiatives, municipal aggregation, commercial development, and comprehensive wastewater management plans. She has expertise in the Public Records Law, Open Meeting Law, and the Conflict of Interest Law. As a private citizen, Elizabeth served on the Wareham Conservation Commission, Wareham Wetland Bylaw Subcommittee, and the Wareham Zoning Bylaw Subcommittee.

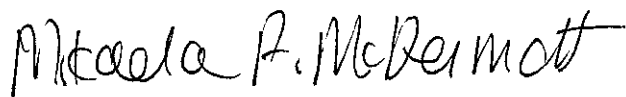
Elizabeth lives in Rochester and will need a residency waiver in order to work for the city. Although we interviewed three New Bedford residents for the position, Elizabeth's relevant experience surpasses that of all of the other candidates, and we believe that she is the candidate

who will best be able to work immediately on various city matters without requiring additional training.

We are also requesting that Elizabeth be hired at the pay grade of M-12, Step 3. Even if she is hired at this pay grade, Elizabeth will be taking a very substantial pay cut to work in the Solicitor's Office. Hiring her at the M-12, Step 3 level would make her pay commensurate with that of other attorneys in the Solicitor's Office with similar years of legal experience, and her salary would not be higher than any other attorney in the Solicitor's Office.

We therefore recommend Elizabeth Lydon for the Associate City Solicitor position and respectfully request your approval of this recommendation. I note that I will be out of the country and unable to attend the City Council meeting on February 28, 2019, but Jane Medeiros Friedman will be able to attend that meeting with Elizabeth, should her candidacy be on the agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mikaela A. McDermott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mikaela A. McDermott  
City Solicitor

cc: Sandra Vezina, Director of Personnel