CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

March 21, 2019

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

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members:

I respectfully submit for the Council's consideration the enclosed ordinance amending Chapter 20, Department of Planning and Community Development, dissolving the consolidated Department of Planning and Community Development, and reinstating the stand-alone departments of Planning and of Housing and Community Development.

This will return the City's organizational structure for these two critical functions to its status prior to the 2013 consolidation, which was performed in order to provide enhanced management of the Planning staff during a period of personnel transition. This reorganization will result in a reclassification of DPHCD Director Patrick Sullivan's position from M-18 to M-16, resulting in a modest salary decrease, while City Planner Tabitha Harkin's position will remain an M-15. This change will also have a positive fiscal impact, as Mr. Sullivan's position and the Deputy Director of Community Development position, now partially supported by the general fund, will be reabsorbed entirely into the grant-funded OHCD budget.

I believe the time is right for this change, which has the full support of Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Harkin. Under Mr. Sullivan's and Ms. Harkin's leadership, the Planning division has made great strides in building out its organizational capacity and has proven to be professionally managed, efficient, and productive. I have full confidence in Ms. Harkin's ability to lead the department on her own going forward.

Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Harkin will be available to answer any questions you may have.

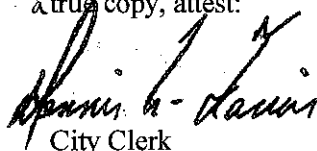Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Mitchell
JFM/crc

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances.

a true copy, attest:

City Clerk

IN CITY COUNCIL, March 28, 2019
Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk