



City of New Bedford

IN COMMITTEE

July 18, 2019

The Honorable City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Appointments & Briefings at a Meeting held on Monday, July 8, 2019, considered a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of MELISSA CHESTER-LETENDRE, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; Ms. Chester-Letendre will be replacing Jessica Bailey whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2022. (Ref'd 6/13/19)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of MELISSA CHESTER-LETENDRE, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; Ms. Chester-Letendre will be replacing Jessica Bailey whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2022. This motion passed on a voice vote.

IN COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS &
BRIEFINGS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Debora Coelho".

Councillor Debora Coelho, Chairperson

DC: dmb



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

CITY CLERKS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA

2019 JUN -6 P 2:44

CITY CLERK

June 5, 2019

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

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

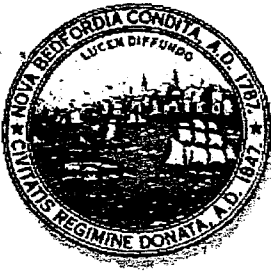
I am submitting for your approval the **APPOINTMENT** of Melissa Chester-Letendre of 24 Chancery Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts to the **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**. Ms. Chester-Letendre will be replacing Jessica Bailey whose term has expired. This term will expire in April 2022.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

JFM/sds

cc: Melissa Chester-Letendre



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD BOARD & COMMISSION APPLICATION

The Mayor is seeking citizens who wish to serve on City Boards and Commissions established to assist and advise the City on specific matters. Please complete this application in full (attach a resume and other information which may assist the Mayor and the City Council in making its selection) and file it with the Personnel Office. The Mayor reserves the right to reject any application. Some appointments are subject to confirmation by the City Council.

Board/Commission applying for: (see reverse side) Historic Commission Community Preservation Committee
Name: Melissa Chester-Letendre Email: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

Residence Address: 24 Chancery St. New Bedford MA 02740
Zip: _____

Present Occupation & Place of Employment: C & L Properties Property Manager/Owner

Educational Background: BFA Sculpture UMass Dartmouth

Memberships in Community Organizations or Professional Groups:
Greater New Bedford Landlord Association

City Boards and/or Commissions on which you have previously served:

The reasons why you wish to be considered for appointment by the Mayor:
I believe our beautiful architecture is one of our city's greatest assets. I have a genuine interest and appreciation for preserving as much of it as possible.

Please detail specific areas of expertise:
My partner and I own 10 buildings that are over 100 years old. We have completed many restoration projects on them. I'm familiar with building codes, lead laws, ADA..

Please detail specific areas of interest:
Practical Restoration and finding the right types of use and occupancy to make these building generate the income needed to maintain them.

Available for meetings in the daytime ☐ evenings ☐ both ☒ (check one)

Resident of the City since what year: 2017

Appointees and incumbents may be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest, as required by the City Council Rules or the Mayor. The statement may require a declaration that you have no interest in conflict with the City of New Bedford. Please return your completed application to the Personnel Department, 133 William St., Room 212, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Applications will be kept on file for two years.

**I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING
INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.**

Signature of Applicant: [Signature]

Date: 6-5-19

Melissa Chester-Letendre

24 Chancery St. New Bedford, MA 02740 | 508-341-3721 | mittoo75@yahoo.com

May, 18, 2018

New Bedford Historic Commission

133 William St. Rm 303

New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear New Bedford Historic Commission:

I am writing you in regard to an open spot on your board. When I was nine years old my mother gave me a book of three dimensional, craft paper, Victorian houses. This sparked an admiration that I have had for at least 35 years. Words like Second Empire, Gothic Revival, and Italianate became part of my vocabulary at such a young age. A decade later in 1995 I moved to New Bedford to be close to UMass Dartmouth's downtown CVPA Campus where I was majoring in Sculpture. I completely fell in love with this unique city and it's splendid architecture. My first apartment was in the attic of an amazing Queen Anne Style apartment building on Sixth St. I must confess I found the architecture more inspiring than the works of the contemporary artists we were studying. I dreamed of owning and restoring a few of the gorgeous but tired looking Victorian Mansions that were just west of downtown. I never wanted to leave New Bedford but I ended up finding better job opportunities elsewhere and moved away in 1998.

In 2003 we bought our 1st rental property in New Bedford. It was just a small 2 family but shortly after we bought another, and then a few more. In 2013 we took on one of the properties I had dreamed of owning in my college years, 345 Union St. The exterior and the basement were in disrepair when we bought it and the offices were nearly all vacant making it almost impossible to cover expenses but the price was too good to be true so we took the leap. It's come a long way but properties like this will always be a work in progress. We continued to purchase more buildings and in 2015 we decided it was time for me to leave my job and work on the properties full time. We bought another unique Victorian home, 52 Morgan St. and several other rental properties including another office building on 8th St.. We also bought a beautiful grand colonial for ourselves here now that I no longer commute to Boston for work. When we close on the latest, next month, we will be at 11 buildings and 50 rented spaces.

We think investing in New Bedford is an obvious, great choice. New Bedford has so much to offer yet it's real estate prices do not reflect the great value that we see. I am so thrilled to see how drastically things have been improving in downtown and other areas of the city in these past few years and I'm so happy about the choices that have been made so that even when new types of building materials are being used to make improvement they still have a historic aesthetic. I do think that despite the huge leaps and bounds that have been made there is still room for improvement and I would absolutely love to be part of the team that plans and assists developers and home owners that wish to help our city grow while maintaining it's historic integrity.

Sincerely,
Melissa Chester-Letendre

Melissa J. Chester-Letendre

**24 Chancery St.
New Bedford, MA
02740**

Email: Mittoo75@yahoo.com

Cell phone: (508) 341-3721

Education

- 1993-1997 University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Bachelor of Fine Arts.
Concentration in Sculpture.
- 2017 Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical Adult Education
MA Building Codes

Work Experience

- 2003-Present Property Manager/Owner of C&L Properties, LLC
Responsible for maintenance and repairs of 10 rental properties
containing 50 rented spaces in New Bedford. Project managed many
building upgrades coordinating contractors, building inspectors, and
labor to insure all work is sound, properly permitted and up to code.
Responsible for finding, screening, and managing commercial and
residential tenants. Responsible for collecting rent, handling leases,
and responding to complaints or emergencies.
- 2003-2016 Lead Fabricator at Design Communications Ltd. Boston.
Collaborated with Project Managers, Design Engineers, Graphic
Designers, Painters and Silk Screeners, on the planning and
production of Architectural Signage Projects. Set up Installers for the
best possible experience in the field while delivering a product that
meets or surpasses the client's expectations and keeping well within
the projects budget. Trained inexperienced workers to be fabricators.
- 2001-2003 Large Scale Art Fabricator at Merrifield and Roberts Inc.
1998-2000 Worked on collaborations for artists such as Frank Stella and Phillip
Johnson. Duties included reading blueprints, layout, fitting,
welding, fiberglass, and painting.
- 2001 Multiple Task Foundry Worker at Grail Studio Foundry Inc.
Worked in all areas of a small art foundry.
- 2000-2001 Metal Finisher at Polich Art Works (Polich/Talix)
Converted rough castings into patina ready sculptures.
- 1997-1998 Visiting Artist / Shop Technician at the UMASS Dartmouth
Supervised, assisted, and offered aesthetic insight to
sculpture students
- 1997-1998 Commissioned Artisan for Tweet Balzano's Restaurant.
Built and carved a five foot tall solid pine
statue.

Technical Skills

Familiar with current International and Massachusetts Residential and Commercial Building Codes (IBC IRC + Mass Amendments)

Familiar with current lead paint laws. (Spouse holds Moderate Risk License)

Strong skills with general carpentry, plumbing and electric.

Familiar with Landlord Tenant Laws

Skilled at staging a space and creating advertisements, finding and screening applicants.

Proficient in reading Blueprint and AutoCAD drawings.

Proficient in all welding areas with all types of metal.

Skilled in metal working

Skilled in working with fiber reinforced plastics

Skilled in woodworking and carving.

Experienced in plug and mold building and casting plaster, resins, and metals

Experienced in prep, fairing, feathering and painting.