



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


November 17, 2020

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes and  
Honorable Members of the City Council  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

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

I am submitting for your approval an ORDER that the sum **ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,300,000)** now standing to the credit of the account from the **SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND** be and is hereby assigned to the Fiscal Year 2021 Wastewater Enterprise Fund budget, and that the portion raised by Wastewater Receipts is hereby reduced by the same amount.

Sincerely,



Jon Mitchell  
Mayor



# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## CITY COUNCIL

November 24, 2020

ORDERED, that to balance the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 the sum of **ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,300,000)** now standing to the credit of the account from the **SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND** be and is hereby assigned to the Fiscal Year 2021 Wastewater Enterprise Fund budget, and that the portion raised by Wastewater Receipts is hereby reduced by the same amount.



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

November 17, 2020

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes, and  
Honorable Members of the City Council  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Dear Council President Lopes and Members of the City Council:

As you will recall, the FY 2021 budget, as originally proposed by me and ultimately adopted by the City Council, reflected an effort to manage the long-term implications of the current pandemic on the city's ability to deliver core municipal services and the financial pressures on tax payers. This required significant austerity measures, including the elimination of vacant positions across city government and the cutting of one-time expenses, along with the use of one-time funds to ease immediate depletion of revenues. There is a general consensus among economists that the pandemic will be felt over several fiscal years, and our budget this year seeks to reduce spending to allow for a softer landing.

To that end, I am submitting for your consideration several appropriations as envisioned in the adopted budget, as described in the accompanying correspondence from the Chief Financial Officer. The appropriations consist of \$6,068,909 in free cash, as well as a \$1,300,000 transfer from the Wastewater Special Projects Fund, or \$7,368,909 overall. Although the state's recently enacted emergency legislation allows municipalities to carry forward free cash certifications from FY 2020 to FY 2021, we are still required to set our annual tax rate before mailing bills at the end of this calendar year. These allocations, while necessary to limit the increase to the tax levy and forestall increases to water and sewer rates, illustrate the difficulties we are encountering in building a budget that is sustainable over the long term.

As I noted in my budget address last July, the City is facing a structural deficit, resulting primarily from enormous retiree obligations and escalating medical and collective bargaining costs. Moreover, New Bedford has not been able to grow its way out of these fiscal challenges, nor winnow costs sufficiently through proactive fiscal management and aggressive efficiency measures. This year's budget thus was shaping up to be trying even before the coronavirus arrived.

It is telling that, despite all our austerity measures, significant one-time funding will be needed to ensure that taxpayers are not overly burdened by economic shock to city government. The amount of free cash applied to balance this budget vastly exceeds that at any point in the last ten years. Over time, we will continue to work proactively to identify unnecessary costs and to reduce current and future liabilities, so that we can come out of the pandemic in a stronger fiscal position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Mitchell', is written over the printed name.

Jon Mitchell  
Mayor



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE CFO  
ARI J. SKY  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

November 16, 2020

**TO:** Mayor Jonathan F. Mitchell  
New Bedford City Council

**FROM:** Ari J. Sky

**SUBJECT:** FY 2021 Free Cash and Enterprise Fund Appropriations

The FY 2021 budget assumes the utilization of certified Free Cash balances to offset revenue requirements in the General Fund and several enterprise funds. The State's emergency law allows localities to carry forward Free Cash certifications from FY 2020 to FY 2021. Appropriation of the Free Cash balances toward revenue will be necessary in order to reduce the impact on the tax levy. The following Free Cash balances are available for appropriation:

- **General Fund:** \$3,893,036 can be applied to general revenue. Reductions approved by the City Council during its consideration, as well as additional State aid as envisioned in the Governor's revised and the House and Senate Ways & Means budgets, have eliminated the need for a transfer from the Stabilization Reserve.
- **Downtown Enterprise Fund:** Revenue to date is down by 50% through the first four months of the fiscal year. The certified Free Cash balance of \$489,174 can be applied to offset the apparent revenue shortfall in the enterprise fund.
- **Water Enterprise Fund:** Appropriation of the \$1,686,699 balance will ensure that the enterprise fund's revenue is sustainable through FY 2021.

The Wastewater Enterprise Fund is classified as a special revenue fund and therefore does not certify Free Cash. However, surplus revenue is assigned to the fund's special projects fund. The adopted budget will require a \$1,300,000 transfer from the fund's special projects account to balance FY 2021 revenue.

Attached please find correspondence from the Department of Public Infrastructure and the Traffic Commission staff requesting appropriations as described above. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

*Attachments*



Jon Mitchell, Mayor

## *City of New Bedford*

OFFICE OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

The Elm Street Garage  
51 Elm Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Tel. (508) 961-3153  
Fax: (508) 979-1716

**Scott Downing**  
*Traffic Commission*  
*Executive Secretary*

November 12, 2020

The Honorable Jonathan F. Mitchell  
Mayor of New Bedford  
City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, receipts in the Downtown Enterprise Fund will not meet FY21 budget projections of \$997,329.

As of today, current revenue is at \$167,911; however, the Downtown Enterprise Fund has a certified Free Cash balance of \$489,174.

I respectfully request the use of Free Cash to offset the FY21 revenue shortfall in the Downtown Enterprise Fund.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly,

Laurie A. Alfonso



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**

**Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor**

**Department of Public Infrastructure**

**Jamie Ponte  
Commissioner**

**Water  
Wastewater  
Highways  
Engineering  
Cemeteries  
Park Maintenance  
Forestry  
Energy**

To: Ari Sky, CFO  
From: Jamie Ponte, Commissioner  
Date: November 13, 2020  
Subject: Water Free Cash – Appropriation Request

The Department of Public Infrastructure would like to request the appropriation of Free Cash in the Water Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$1,686,699.00 as follows:

\$1,686,699.00 to 55006000-490910 Other Financing Sources

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Ponte", is written over the printed name and title.

Jamie Ponte  
Commissioner



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
**Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor**

## **Department of Public Infrastructure**

**Jamie Ponte**  
**Commissioner**

**Water**  
**Wastewater**  
**Highways**  
**Engineering**  
**Cemeteries**  
**Park Maintenance**  
**Forestry**  
**Energy**

To: Ari Sky, CFO  
From: Jamie Ponte, Commissioner  
Date: November 13, 2020  
Subject: Wastewater– Appropriation Request

The Department of Public Infrastructure would like to request the appropriation of \$1,300,000 from the Special Projects Fund to the Wastewater Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$1,300,000 as follows:

\$1,300,000 to 63906000-490910

Other Financing Sources

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jamie Ponte  
Commissioner



SUBMITTED BY	Robert Ekstrom	CITY/TOWN/DISTRICT	New Bedford
PHONE	508-979-1530	SUBMISSION DATE	11/01/19
FIELD REP	Debbie Wagner	SUBMISSION COMPLETE DATE	11/14/19

### FREE CASH CALCULATION

**BEGIN:**

UNRESERVED UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	8,571,978
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**LESS:**

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVABLE	177,600
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REAL ESTATE TAXES RECEIVABLE	3,596,989
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OTHER RECEIVABLE, OVERDRAWN ACCOUNTS, DEFICITS

Other Dept Rec	91,504	Healthy Meals	1
Ret Check Fees	75	Part for success	896
A/R Other	663	Ren. MCC Field	216
Accd Int MARS	141	Young Peop Concer	120
Due From Harb. Dev.	749,859	EOS Grant	45
Due From Redev Auth	650,931	Nellie Mae	1,500
Health Fines	196	MA CEC Learn	2,249
Tourism Rev	15,666	SPED Imp	971
Quest Center	18,303	Title II A	25,536
DEA Overtime	654	MKEA	11,109
SSYI EOHHS	1,211	ELL Academ	190
Fire Safer FEMA	357	Turn Assist	6,500
Safer Staffing FEMA	3,293	Voucher	17,553
Environ Monitor	1,227	Trans Main	1
AERO Study	2,939	4 2M Bond	139,852
Airport Grants	458,165	Michael Freitas	8
Airport Equip	1,803	NBHS Photo	5
Duchaine Blvd Brown	3,253	Retirement Salaries	20,346
Browns Assess Grant	1,509	Additional Sheet	139,492
			2,368,337

FREE CASH VOTED FROM TOWN MEETING NOT RECORDED	-
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**ADD:**

DEFERRED REVENUE (CREDIT BALANCE +, DEBIT BALANCE -)	1,463,984
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60 DAYS TAX COLLECTIONS	-
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**OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS:**

	-
	-
	-
	-

3,893,036

FREE CASH, JULY 1, 2019

Debbie Wagner

REVIEWED BY:

PLEASE SEE CERTIFICATION LETTER

DATE:

11/06/19

FOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS APPROVAL

[illegible]

SUBMITTED BY Robert Ekstrom  
FIELD REP Debbie Wagner

COMMUNITY New Bedford  
FUND Parking Enterprise Fund

**RETAINED EARNINGS CALCULATION - ENTERPRISE FUND**

**PART I**

CASH 702,781

SUBTRACT:

CURRENT LIABILITIES, DESIGNATIONS OF FUND BALANCE

Warrants Payable	29,205
Encumbrances	113,966
Expenditures	
Acc. Payroll	4,345
Other Liab	1,015
Due to other funds	65,077

OTHER

TOTAL 489,174

**PART II**

RETAINED EARNINGS - UNDESIGNATED 494,187

SUBTRACT:

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (NET)	
A/R	5,013

OTHER

TOTAL 489,174

**PART III**

**FIXED ASSETS:**

DEBITS

CREDITS

Total	-		-
FIXED ASSET VARIANCE	-		

REVIEWED BY:

Debbie Wagner

PLEASE SEE CERTIFICATION LETTER

DATE:

11/14/19

FOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS APPROVAL

SUBMITTED BY Robert Ekstrom  
FIELD REP Debbie Wagner

COMMUNITY New Bedford  
FUND Water

**RETAINED EARNINGS CALCULATION - ENTERPRISE FUND**

**PART I**

CASH 2,744,963

**SUBTRACT:**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES, DESIGNATIONS OF FUND BALANCE**

Warrants Payable	631,147
Encumbrances	65,200
Expenditures	
Accrued Payroll	90,604
Other Liabilities	268,147
Due to other funds	3,164

**OTHER**

Variance	(1)
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TOTAL 1,686,699

**PART II**

RETAINED EARNINGS - UNDESIGNATED 3,596,217

**SUBTRACT:**

**ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (NET)**

Departmental	20,854
Inventory	155,942
Receivables	1,732,722

**OTHER**

TOTAL 1,686,699

**PART III**

**FIXED ASSETS:**

**DEBITS**

**CREDITS**

Total	-		-
FIXED ASSET VARIANCE	-		

Debbie Wagner

REVIEWED BY:

PLEASE SEE CERTIFICATION LETTER

DATE:

11/14/19

FOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS APPROVAL