

February 4, 2021

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 a revised LOAN ORDER appropriating \$420,692 to pay the costs of improving Abolition Row Park Phase 2 contingent upon the award of a PARC grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the identification of additional grants, including but not limited to, Community Preservation Act funding, to support the required local match.

This your order replaces the previous version submitted on January 14, 2021.

Sincerely

Jon Machell Mayor



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

February 11, 2021

ORDERED, that \$420,692 is appropriated to pay the costs of improving Abolition Row Park for recreational purposes through the completion of Phase 2 including patio pavement, lighting, interpretive walls and structures and other amenities and all other costs incidental and related thereto, belonging to the City of New Bedford, as indicated on Assessor's Map 46, Lots 55 and 58. The amount authorized for this project by this order shall be contingent upon the award of a PARC grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the identification of additional grants, including but not limited to, Community Preservation Act funding, to support the required local match.

Said land shall be developed for municipal purposes, namely open space and recreation purposes under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 45, Section 3, and as it may hereafter be amended and other Massachusetts statutes relating to recreation, shall be managed and controlled by the Park Commission of New Bedford and that the Mayor shall be authorized to file on behalf of New Bedford any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deemed necessary under the Urban Self-Help Act (301 CMR 5.00) and/or any others in any way connected with the scope of this Article, and that the City of New Bedford and the Mayor shall be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the City of New Bedford to affect said development.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That any premium received by the City of New Bedford upon the sale of any bonds or notes hereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed hereunder shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out these projects.



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES



Request for Mayor's Papers
City Council Appropriation for Approval

Submitted February 2, 2021

I am pleased to inform you that the City Department of Parks Recreation & Beaches has been selected by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to receive \$294,484.00 in state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) assistance for Abolition Row Park Phase 2 construction. The PARC grant is on a reimbursement basis. The award represents 70% of the total Phase 2 budget. The remaining 30%, the City match, has been requested in a CPA grant application submitted this month in the amount of \$126,208. The entire Phase 2 budget for the completion of the construction at Abolition Row Park is \$420,692. Please see attached budget for details.

To address Council concerns about the timing of funding for the Phase 2 construction at Abolition Row Park, I have secured permission from the State to add language to the loan order making approval contingent upon the award of the Community Preservation Act grant this spring. See attached revised request for authorization that includes the new language that was approved by the State.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for appropriation of funds for the completion of Aboltion Row Park construction. Phase 1 construction will begin in spring 2021 and includes the installation of all underground utilities, grading, fencing, landscaping and some lighting. We hope to follow directly with the Phase 2 construction which includes the installation of the patio pavement, the remainder of the lighting, interpretive walls and structures. The park cannot open to the public until phase 2 is completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Rapoza

Mary S. Rapoza, Director



Charles D. Baker GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kathleen A. Theoharides SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114

> Tel: (617) 626-1000 Fax: (617) 626-1181

November 17, 2020

Mary Rapoza Parks, Recreation & Beaches 181 Hillman Street, Building 3 New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Abolition Row Park Phase 2, PARC #16

Dear Ms. Rapoza:

I am pleased to officially confirm that the Abolition Row Park Phase 2 project has been selected by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to receive up to \$294,484.00 in state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) assistance. You will be working with Melissa Cryan of my staff on this project. She can be reached at melissa.cryan@mass.gov.

Project deadline is June 1, 2022

Be advised that the sum of \$294,484.00 for construction will be executed for encumbrance of funds in FY22, which begins July 1, 2021. All construction work must be completed and closed out by June 1, 2022. PARC grants work on a reimbursement basis. Your community's reimbursement rate is 70%. We can only reimburse your community for 70% of what you spend, even if this figure does not reach the maximum value of the grant award for that specific fiscal year.

The project must be completed by June 1, 2022 because your grant award amount has been budgeted by EEA in the fiscal years requested in your application. If you anticipate any difficulties in meeting this spending target and schedule at any time, please contact Melissa without delay.

Next Steps

- Take a City Council or Town Meeting vote if you have not done so already. Melissa must have a certified copy of the vote in hand by December 31, 2020. If you have not yet had her review the vote language, please do so immediately.
- 2. Execute the PARC Project Agreements. The PARC Project Agreement will be signed by your Chief Executive Officer and a majority of the Park or Recreation Commission members. Review the agreement carefully to be sure that the project has been correctly described and contact Melissa immediately if any changes or updates need to be made. If the document is correct, please have two copies signed and return them to Melissa for signature by Kathleen Theoharides, Secretary of EEA. One original will be returned to you to record, along with the town meeting or city council vote, property deed, and boundary map, at the Registry of Deeds, and to be copied for your audit file.
- 3. Execute a State Standard Contract. This document allows our fiscal department to establish an account for your project. No reimbursement request can be honored unless the State Standard Contract, including the Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing, are signed and returned to Melissa. The Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form should be signed by whoever signed contract. Be sure to fill out both pages of the

- document. Only two names should appear on this document the signatory and the notary. A sample form has been enclosed please review it closely so that your form is filled out correctly.
- 4. After the state contract has been signed and returned to you, you may proceed with the final design of your project. You may not start construction until July 1, 2021. Please note that we are unable to reimburse your community for any costs incurred prior to the execution of the State Standard Contract.

Reimbursement Procedures

The reimbursement procedures will be discussed in detail at the Grants Management Workshop (information below). A quarterly report form is also enclosed, which is due the first business day of March, June, September, and December while the project is active.

Reimbursement will be contingent upon satisfying the following conditions:

- 1. The outstanding conversion issue at Fort Taber is resolved through legislation by June 1, 2022.
- A copy of the PARC Project Agreement, which has been recorded at the Registry of Deeds
 (along with the town meeting or city council vote for the project and boundary map) and a
 marginal notation entered on the deed to the property, is returned.
- 3. The construction must be started on July 1, 2021 and closed out by June 1, 2022.
- 4. New Bedford's Open Space and Recreation Plan receives final approval.
- 5. Completion of outstanding CRs on parcels acquired with the use of CPA funds. Applicants that have purchased real property interests for open space or recreational purposes using money from the Community Preservation Fund must have all conservation restrictions required by Section 12 of Chapter 44B approved by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and recorded prior to receipt of project reimbursement from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Please submit to DCS documentation showing the conveyance of approved CRs to an appropriate entity on the below listed properties acquired with the use of CPA. Documentation should include the grantee, date of conveyance, and registry book/page of the CR document.

Legally Protected Recreation Land - New Bedford's Commitment

Please remember that according to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, acceptance of the state grant requires that this site remain open to the general public and prohibits any other use other than public outdoor recreation.

Project Sponsor's Workshop

Please carefully review all the enclosed information, and plan to attend the Project Sponsor's Workshop. This is a short, but important, mandatory meeting to review how to prepare your reimbursement request(s). If you cannot attend, please send someone to represent you since it would be very difficult to meet individually with each project sponsor. The same workshop will be offered on two different dates virtually. The first will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 11:00 am. The second will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 2:00 pm. Please RSVP to Melissa as to who will be attending from your office and which date you prefer. Upon registration, the login information will be provided.

Congratulations on your successful application to the PARC program!

Sincerely,

Robert O'Connor

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Director

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PH II Assemblishes
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