



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

March 18, 2021

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

Dear Council President Lopes and Honorable Members:

I respectfully submit for the Council's consideration the enclosed four (4) ordinances amending Chapters 2, 10, and 19 as they pertain to the Departments of Public Infrastructure and Environmental Stewardship, and to the New Bedford Energy Now revolving fund. These amendments will change the name of the Environmental Stewardship department and department head to the Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship and to the Director of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship respectively, and transfer oversight of the City's energy management program and its associated revolving fund from the Department of Public Infrastructure to the renamed Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship.

These changes reflect the centrality of resilience planning and implementation in the recent work of the Environmental Stewardship department, the centerpiece of which is the recently released climate resilience plan *NB Resilient*. A major focus of the City's climate resilience strategy is and will continue to be energy efficiency and alternative energy development and promotion, so we thought it made great sense to bring the energy management program under the Resilience and Environmental Stewardship umbrella. We believe this change will result in better alignment and coordination of goals, activities, and outcomes, using *NB Resilient* as the guiding document. These proposed changes will have no overall budgetary impact. While there will be an increase in the DES budget with the addition of the energy management positions and associated expenses, there will be a commensurate decrease in DPI's general fund budget.

Given the City's nationally recognized leadership in climate, energy, and resilience; the likelihood of increased focus and resources for this work at the state and federal levels in the coming months and years; and the development of a comprehensive local resilience plan, I believe the time is right for this change in alignment and management. The change has the full support of Environmental Stewardship Director Michele Paul, DPI Commissioner Jamie Ponte, and Energy Manager Scott Durkee, all of whom will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Mitchell  
JFM/crc

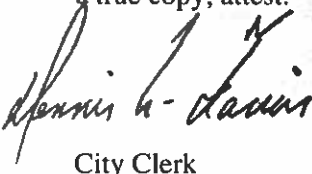
cc: Michele Paul, Jamie Ponte, Scott Durkee, Personnel

**IN CITY COUNCIL, March 25, 2021**

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances – Yeas 11, Nays 0.

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk

a true copy, attest:

  
Dennis W. Farias  
City Clerk