



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

August 9, 2022

Council President Ian Abreu
Members of the City Council
City Hall
133 William Street, Room 215
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: Special Municipal Election

Dear Council President Abreu and Honorable Members:

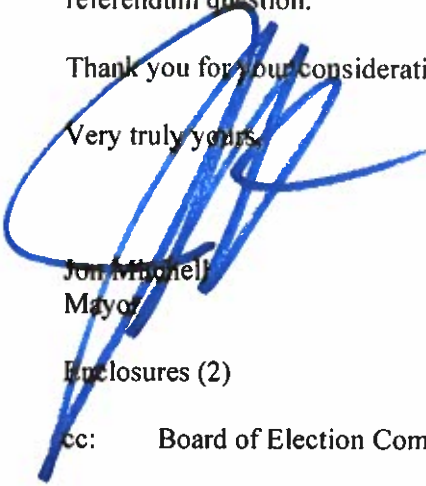
At the request of Manuel DeBrito, Jr., the Chairperson of the Board of Election Commissioners, I am submitting for your consideration a proposed Order calling for a Special Municipal Election to be held on November 8, 2022 and that the question "Shall this City be added to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority?" be placed on the ballot. This is the language prescribed by MGL Ch. 161A Section 6.

At this time the City is not an MBTA district city relative to the construction of the South Coast Rail. By statute, any city or town seeking to receive transportation service from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority must seek the approval of the voters by referendum. A decision by the voters must be made prior to revenue service beginning next year. Therefore, the certified election results must be submitted no later than January 1, 2023.

The Election Commission Chair has recommended that a special municipal election be held simultaneously with the November 8, 2022 State Election and that the proposed Order be adopted by the Council at its August meeting so as to ensure the question can be timely posed to the electorate in November. The City would be responsible for the costs of printing a separate municipal ballot for this referendum question.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,


Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

Enclosures (2)

cc: Board of Election Commissioners



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

August 18, 2022

Ordered, that the City of New Bedford hold a Special Municipal Election on November 8, 2022 and that pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 161A Section 6 that the following question be placed upon the November 8, 2022 Special Municipal Election Ballot: "Shall this City be added to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority?"



City of New Bedford

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

August 9, 2022

Mayor Jon Mitchell
City Hall
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell,

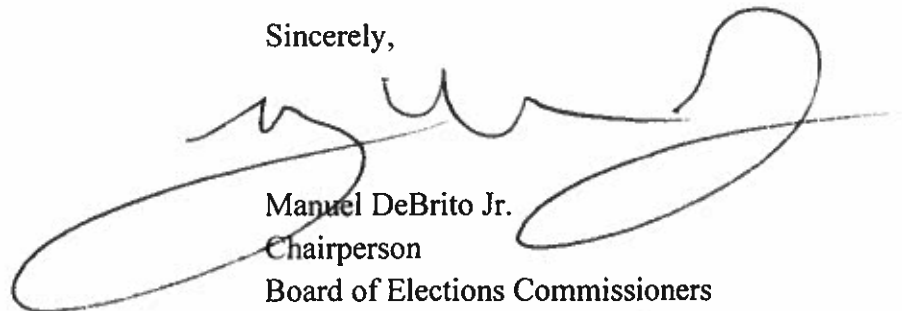
At the present time the City of New Bedford is not yet an MBTA district city relative to the construction of the South Coast Rail.

As mandated by statute, any city seeking to receive transportation service from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority must seek approval of the voters via referendum. A decision by the voters must be made prior to revenue service beginning on the South Coast Rail, with the certified election results submitted no later than January 1, 2023.

Upon discussions with Michelle Tassinari from Secretary of State Galvin's Office, I was informed that any home-rule petition request to add the referendum question onto the November General Election ballot will be opposed by his office. Therefore, I recommend that an Order be adopted by the City Council to hold a special election, simultaneously, with the State Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 161A, section 6, the following question will be placed on the special municipal election ballot: **"Shall this city be added to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority?"** As this statute pertains to a municipal election and not a state election, the city will be responsible to pay for printing a separate ballot dedicated to this referendum question.

Sincerely,



Manuel DeBrito Jr.
Chairperson
Board of Elections Commissioners