



City of New Bedford

IN COMMITTEE

October 27, 2022

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

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Finance at a Meeting held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, considered a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Morad, Lima, Burgo, Baptiste, Gomes, Carney, and Dunn, submitting a copy of a Communication regarding Request for Response #22130143 – Vacant or Abandoned Property Rehabilitation, a City of New Bedford program funded under the American Rescue Plan Act; said communication requests the City Council's involvement in securing a twelve-month extension of the Administration's deadline for submission of proposals for funding under the Request for Response #22130143. (To be Referred to the Interim Chief Financial Officer and the Committee on Finance.) (Ref'd 09/08/2022)

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Morad, Lima, Burgo, Baptiste, Gomes, Carney, and Dunn, submitting a copy of a Communication regarding Request for Response #22130143 – Vacant or Abandoned Property Rehabilitation, a City of New Bedford program funded under the American Rescue Plan Act; said communication requests the City Council's involvement in securing a twelve-month extension of the Administration's deadline for submission of proposals for funding under the Request for Response #22130143. This motion passed on a voice vote.

IN COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Councillor William Brad Markey, Chairman

WBM: dmb

41 Bedford Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
caboverdeanstrong@gmail.com

Honorable Council of the City of New Bedford
City Hall, 133 Williams Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts, 02740

RE: RFR. #22130143 Vacant or Abandoned Property Rehabilitation

Dear Members of the New Bedford City Council,

We, Members of the Community, write to express our grave concerns with the 90-day response time for **Request For Response, (RFR) 22130143, Vacant or Abandoned Property Rehabilitation** and request the full support of the New Bedford City Council in our request for, at minimum, a twelve month extension to respond and our request for a supervised bus tour of the City of New Bedford's HUD-designated Qualified Census Tracts (QCT). RFR 22130143 is intended to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, federal award number SLFRP1067, awarded to the City of New Bedford (City) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury).

Recent census data analysis demonstrates that over the past decade, there is a noticeable decrease in the population of Cape-Verdean Americans residing in the City of New Bedford's HUD-designated Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) and in the City of New Bedford overall. Whether unintended, RFR 2213014, will have consequences that will weaken the present community culture and very likely result in further gentrification of the New Bedford-Cape Verdean community.

We recognize the blight vacant and abandoned properties have in our neighborhoods and align with the effort to address the matter. As a community directly impacted by the HUD-designated QCT, it is important that barriers are not erected that will weaken the intended beneficiaries.

Additional time is needed to adequately prepare a comprehensive and competitive response and for these reasons and as part of our community oversight duties, we ask that you support, at minimum, a 12-month extension to respond to RFR 22130143 and support our request for a supervised bus tour of the City of New Bedford's HUD-designated Qualified Census Tracts (QCT). We, the undersigned Members of the Community, request the support of the New Bedford City Council as we ask the mayor to swiftly answer our request and as we ask the mayor for his cooperation and full transparency in the execution of RFR. #22130143 Vacant or Abandoned Property Rehabilitation.

With all due respect,

Concerned Members of the New Bedford Community



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

September 08, 2022

WRITTEN MOTION

Submitting, a copy of a Communication regarding Request for Response #22130143 - Vacant or Abandoned Property Rehabilitation, a City of New Bedford program funded under the American Rescue Plan Act; said communication requests the City Council's involvement in securing a twelve-month extension of the Administration's deadline for submission of proposals for funding under the Request for Response #22130143. (To be Referred to the Interim Chief Financial Officer and the Committee on Finance.)

Linda M. Morad, Councillor at Large

Scott J. Lima, Councillor Ward Five

Shane A. Burgo, Councillor at Large

Derek Baptiste, Councillor Ward Four

Brian K. Gomes, Councillor at Large

Naomi R. A. Carney, Councillor at Large

Hugh C. Dunn, Councillor Ward Three