



# City of New Bedford

## Office of City Council

133 William Street • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

979-1455 • Fax: 508-979-1451

**Maria E. Giesta**

*Councillor Ward Two*

November 17, 2022

### RE: ARPA Vacant and Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Fund

Dear ARPA Committee Members:

I am writing to enthusiastically support the Community Economic Development Center's (CEDC) application to the City of New Bedford ARPA Vacant and Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Fund for the Capitol Theater building.

The CEDC has been working with WHALE and studio2sustain on this transformative project that will restore and rehabilitate an historic, 1920 commercial and film theater that is presently 90 % vacant. The underutilized properties program will support construction costs to create office and program space for the CEDC, six residential units, a credit union branch, legal services, community space for expanded adult education, youth programs and a shared-use kitchen to help create new small business opportunities.

Restoration of this building would have a transformative and catalytic impact to help drive additional commercial investment into the North End that is need of focused attention and investment by the City of New Bedford. This important project will help CEDC to expand its programs and resources and to continue the revitalization of the International Marketplace along the Acushnet Avenue corridor. We welcome this opportunity, and the positive impact this project will have on the neighborhood and its community members. We hope you will consider supporting this project to restore this building to further the important work in this dynamic and diverse neighborhood in New Bedford.

Please don't hesitate to call my office with any questions and thank you for your consideration of this worthy project.

Kind Regards,

Maria E. Giesta,  
Councillor Ward Two

MEG: rrr

cc: File