

5 April 2023

President Linda Morad and Honorable Members of the New Bedford City Council City Hall 133 William Street New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear President Morad and Members of the City Council:

This letter is in support of continuing the present Community Preservation Act (CPA) protocols.

Since 1925, the Men's Luncheon Club has been meeting bi-monthly at the Wamsutta Club in the James and Sarah Arnold Mansion. Our members continue to include community and business leaders from New Bedford and the neighboring towns. Many important business decisions affecting the economy of our fair city and region have been made around these luncheon tables. Our commitment to making New Bedford a better place for all to work and live in continues through our program of invited speakers and good works.

We believe that the Community Preservation Act aligns seamlessly with the mission and goals which have guided us in all our activities. CPA creates local construction jobs by spurring development, eliminates blight, promotes sustainability, supports affordable housing options, and increases the values of neighborhoods and commercial districts throughout the City.

While we are only visitors to and users of the facilities at the James and Sarah Arnold Mansion, our organization, its mission, and its membership would be very different were we to gather in a different place. The building, its grounds, and their history are very special to us. We support the mission of the James Arnold Mansion, Inc., appreciate the work and efforts required to maintain it, and recognize the singular importance that the CPA has been in helping to stabilize the exterior of the building and learning more about the physical characteristics of its grounds.

Without CPA funds supporting the projects that they have enabled in our City, New Bedford would not be the exciting and vigorous place we know and love.

Therefore, the members of the Mens' Luncheon Club respectfully ask that you recognize the widespread benefits of CPA and not override the Mayor's veto on the upcoming non-binding referendum to repeal the Community Preservation Act.

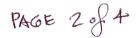
Sincerely,

Members of the Mens' Luncheon Club

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427 County Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

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