



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 5, 2023

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

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to inform you that the City has received its fiscal year 2022 Free Cash certification from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The General Fund component of the certification is a total of \$12,870,818. This balance is available for appropriation until June 30, 2023, after which it will revert to unobligated fund balance, and we will have to wait until the certification of fiscal year 2023 Free Cash to appropriate from it.

Over the years, we have worked together to ensure that the City is able to maintain a robust financial reserve. Toward that end, we adopted a financial policy that calls for at least 25% of free cash to go to the Stabilization Fund and 10% into OPEB Trust funds, while maintaining a balance in the Stabilization Fund equal to 2 to 6% of the General Fund operating budget. As of June 30, 2022, the Stabilization Fund balance was \$5.8 million, which is equal to only 1.4% of fiscal year 2023's operating budget. The decrease is attributable to a \$6.1 million transfer approved last year to pay for Police and Fire Union contract settlements. We propose to restore this fund balance using free cash this year, which would raise the balance to \$15.1 million, or 4% of fiscal year 2023's operating budget. These funds are important to ensure the City is able to address unforeseen challenges.

For the remaining free cash, we have developed a package of items that address certain immediate needs. The package that I am submitting for your consideration includes the following appropriations:

- \$3,217,704 and \$6,151,689 to the General Fund Stabilization Fund.
- \$1,287,081.80 to the OPEB Trust Fund.
- \$495,000 for the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management to complete work at Fire Station #2, which also houses the headquarters of the Fire Department. Funds were originally appropriated in the fiscal year 2020 capital bond for improvements to the station's restrooms, sleeping quarters, clean room and parking lot. The cost of the project has increased significantly, and the use of free cash is necessary to ensure its completion.

- \$85,500 for the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management to provide Fire Station #5 with electrical upgrades. The cost of the project has increased significantly, and the use of free cash is necessary to ensure its completion.
- \$166,076.27 to cover the Unit C Reclassification additional salary costs for fiscal year 2023 across all General Fund departments.
- \$92,766.43 for the Buttonwood Park Zoo as many costs this fiscal year are higher than anticipated due to the need to contract for veterinarian services to address multiple emergency animal surgeries, increased food and supply costs, the demands of aging animals and multiple unplanned vehicle repairs.
- \$400,000 for the Police Department to replace their tablets that have met the end of their useful life. This amount includes all costs associated with acquisition, installation, and training for the devices.
- \$375,000 to acquire six front-line patrol vehicles for the Police Department, which will be a mix between hybrid and regular vehicles.
- \$100,000 to complete a comprehensive review of the City emergency plans.
- \$300,000 for the Department of Public Infrastructure to purchase a new vacuum sweeper. This would be a replacement for the oldest unit.
- \$200,000 for the Department of Public Infrastructure to provide additional street light replacements, repairs, and painting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Mitchell
Mayor



**Free Cash Certification
Free Cash Calculation - Fiscal Year 2023**

Begin:	
Unreserved Undesignated Fund Balance	19,118,806.00
Subtract:	
Personal Property Tax Receivable	353,686.00
Real Estate Tax Receivable	4,319,193.00
Other Receivables in Deferred Revenue	
	0.00
Total	0.00
Other Receivables, Overdrawn Accounts, Deficits	
GF Departmental police detail	1,670.00
GF Prepays	260,000.00
GF accounts receivable other	663.00
GF Due From Harbor Dvlpmt	599,859.00
GF Due from Redevelopment	650,931.00
GF appropriation deficit	45,972.00
SRF zoo donations	41,122.00
SRF NB school athletics	7,311.00
SRF Continuing Ed	98.00
SRF Quest Center	229,503.00
SRF CFO Insurance recovery	147,937.00
SRF Arts and Culture	40.00
SRF Byrne JAG grant	295.00
SRF DEA Overtime	6,490.00
SRF Bullet proof vest	46,899.00
SRF Firefighter safety equipment	37,861.00
SRF Fire SAFER staffing	357.00
SRF FEMAMEMA disaster relief	89.00
SRF Fire AFG OPS & safety	14,242.00
SRF SAFER staffing FY14	3,293.00
SRF Resiliency grant costal mgt	8,505.00
SRF Duchaine Blvd Brownsfiels	8,465.00
SRF Brownfield relief	1,335.00
SRF Partnership for success	9,667.00
SRF CARA 1st respond training	33,547.00

Free Cash Certification
Free Cash Calculation - Fiscal Year 2023

SRF Elder Mental health	8,150.00
SRF IOPSLL SARF NACCHO	83,173.00
SRF CZM CPR EEOEEA	10,613.00
SRF Recreation grant	174,554.00
SRF CH90	35,674.00
SRF EOS grant	45.00
SRF Hannigan MOS	400.00
SRF MA Life sciences ctr	2,955.00
SRF Masshire workforce	2,249.00
SRF SPED improvement	971.00
SRF Project support	13,172.00
SRF Acceleration academy	11,109.00
SRF Dev/Exp of HQ Summer	2,881.00
SRF 21st CCLC Gomes	775.00
SRF Emergency Aid for homeless	34.00
SRF ABE	236.00
SRF ELL Academies	190.00
SRF TAG 222	6,500.00
SRF Workforce skills grant	4,293.00
CP Campbell School	22,397.00
TA Michael Freitas Scholarship	8.00
TA NBHS Photo club scholarship	65.00
TA School TSA W-H Local	111,724.00
TA Retirement salaries	34,262.00
TA Utility Bills Webster agency Fd	10,016.00
OR PP variance	4,873.00
OR RE variance	17,981.00
OR Tax Liens variance	86,473.00
SRF acceleration academy 4544	17,981.00
Cash Variance	63,128.00
CP Airport Terminal	432,370.00
GF Foreclosures	103,427.00
GF Due To Other Govmt	1,090.00
Total	3,419,920.00
Free Cash Voted from Town Meeting Not Recorded	0.00
Add:	

Free Cash Certification
Free Cash Calculation - Fiscal Year 2023

Circuit Breaker, Other Closed Accounts, Adjustments:	
	0.00
Total	0.00
Deferred Revenue (Credit Balance+, Debit Balance-)	1,844,811.00
Free Cash Calculation for 2022	12,870,818.00
Reviewed By:	Katie Scopelleti
Certified On:	3/22/2023



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

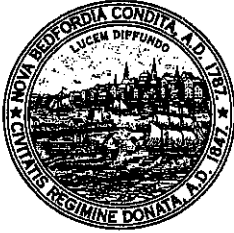
CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **THREE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,217,704)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

STABILIZATION FUND.....\$3,217,704

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **SIX MILLION, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE DOLLARS** (\$6,151,689) now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

STABILIZATION FUND.....\$6,151,689

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL
April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **ONE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN THOUSAND AND EIGHTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$1,287,082)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

OPEB TRUST FUND.....\$1,287,082

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL
April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$495,000)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

FACILITIES AND FLEET CAPITAL OUTLAY.....\$495,000

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



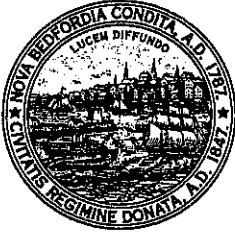
CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL
April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$85,500)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

FACILITIES AND FLEET CAPITAL OUTLAY.....\$85,500

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND AND SEVENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$166,077)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CHARGES AND SERVICES.....\$166,077

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **NINETY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$92,766)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

ZOO CHARGES AND SERVICES.....	\$70,000
ZOO SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS.....	\$22,766

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL
April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$400,000)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

POLICE CAPITAL OUTLAY.....\$400,000

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL
April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$375,000)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

POLICE CAPITAL OUTLAY.....\$375,000

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED
CHARGES AND SERVICES.....\$100,000**

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

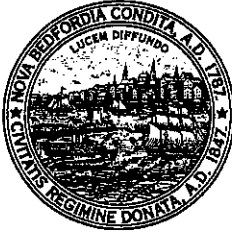
CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$300,000)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL OUTLAY.....\$300,000

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2023

ORDERED, that the sum of **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL OUTLAY.....\$200,000

To be certified and approved by the Department Head