

April 5, 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:

As a member of Martha Briggs Educational Club, I am writing to show my support for the Community Preservation Act in New Bedford and ask that it not be revoked. The Martha Briggs Educational Club has owned the Sgt. William H. Carney Jr. Memorial Homestead on Mill Street since 1939 and funding from the Community Preservation Committee has made stewardship of this building an easier lift for our small non-profit organization.

In 2014, Martha Briggs Educational Club members participated in a vigorous outreach program, working with a diverse group of stakeholders interested in historic rehabilitation, parks and open space, and community housing, to raise awareness of the benefits the CPA program and to bring the CPA adoption item to a ballot question.

Our organization, along with other city organizations and neighborhood groups participated in a variety of neighborhood and local events to promote CPA. The initiative received positive media coverage and in June 2014, the City Council voted unanimously to advance the CPA question to the local ballot, which ultimately was passed by the voters.

CPA is a wise and sound investment as it directly leverages an automatic state match, and many of the individual CPA projects attract additional public and private dollars to match their CPA awards, leveraging funds far beyond the community's investment and which often would not be available without the CPA incentive. This has certainly been the case for our restoration of the Sgt. Carney Homestead.

The ability to use local sourced funding to implement locally driven projects that fulfil community needs is an attribute of the CPA program which encouraged Martha Briggs Educational Club to support its adoption in 2014. The community benefit of the CPA program cannot be overstated. The ability to invest in a variety of long-term impactful initiatives which promote economic growth, enhance parklands, and preserve our history while ensuring strong, safe neighborhoods and thriving commercial districts should not be considered for elimination.

CPA was signed into state law in 2000 and to date, 194 communities have adopted CPA, which thus far, has not diminished the state match from the DOR managed Community Preservation Trust Fund. The 194 communities represent 70% of Massachusetts residents and statewide over \$3.15 billion has been raised for community led projects. Since its inception there have only been three attempts (the last in 2012) by communities to revoke the CPA program through a ballot initiative, and all three failed by a large margin. It is clear, both locally and statewide, CPA's benefits are widely recognized.

I respectfully ask that you recognize the widespread benefits of CPA and not override the Mayor's veto on the non-binding referenda to repeal the Community Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.