

# THE NEW BEDFORD PORT SOCIETY

SEAMEN'S BETHEL | *ERECTED IN 1831* • MARINER'S HOME | *BUILT IN 1787*  
15 JOHNNY CAKE HILL, NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740 | [WWW.PORTSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.PORTSOCIETY.ORG) | 508-992-3295

4/7/2023

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:

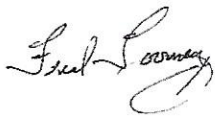
In 1830, The New Bedford Port Society built the Seamen's' Bethel as a non-denominational place of worship and reflection for whalers going to sea. Today, many of New Bedford's fishermen and their families come to pray, marry, baptize their children, and remember loved ones lost in this same iconic structure which is considered the "soul" of the historic district.

In 2014, members of the Port Society along with other organizations, participated in an outreach program to raise awareness of the benefits the CPA program could bring to organizations such as ours who are interested and involved in preserving not only historic structures but also city parks, open spaces, and community housing.

CPA funding has and continues to invest in many local projects including the Port Society property. These investments by CPA play a vital role in helping fundraising efforts by those helping to restore and reserve historical venues, community housing, parks, and open spaces. The enhancements showcase our site and generate tourism loss of this funding would reduce the ability of many organizations to continue with their efforts to make improvements or raise funds.

On behalf of the New Bedford Port Society, I request that the city council reconsider its position on CPA and retain it as a funding source for the needs of many of the ongoing projects that help make New Bedford a cleaner, safer, and vibrant city that will increase tourism and promote local business.

With Many Thanks,



Frederick Toomey  
President, NBPS