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**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2023 1:15 PM  
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**Subject:** Ordinance meeting April 11

Good Morning,

I have received the invitation to the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the issue of adopting section 15a of MGL 32B to offer voluntary benefits with no cost sharing on the City's behalf. The adoption of this section will allow us to offer dental and vision plans to our employees with no cost to the City and is the first step required to enable us to do so. The law requires that we offer all benefits to all employees rather than selecting groups by CBA's or non-union affiliations. Currently we do not offer these plans, and only the Unit C non-union group is denied access to this type of health plan as we are not cost sharing and do not have this section of the law adopted at the local level. The union plans are offered at 3 different prices for each of the units with only AFSCME being charged a \$25.00 registration fee to get into the plan. Fire is offered the lowest premium with Police at a slightly higher premium and AFSCME is at the highest rate. I am attaching the current rates for your information. I am also attaching the current offering of Altus Dental and Vision plans being considered. Blue Cross Blue Shield has also expressed an interest in bidding our book of business as well, but I have not yet received their quotes.

I will be unable to attend on April 11th as I will be in Florida for my granddaughter's surgery and recovery. I am communicating with our consultants and the vendor who has worked with the City of New Bedford since the late 90s on our voluntary benefits. I am happy to discuss this matter with you should you have any questions and may ask our consultant from Lockton to attend if needed.

Thank you,  
Judi



**Judith A. Keating**

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