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April 19, 2023

VIA EMAIL DELIVERY

Leah Barrault  
Berrault and Associates LLP  
3 Boulevard Street  
Milton, MA 02186

RE: March 27, 2023 Information Request

Dear Leah:

The City is in receipt of your March 27, 2023 information request. However, the City is unaware of and has no record of a proposal being made to the New Bedford Firefighters Union ("Union") on March 14, 2023 or otherwise regarding "Dental and Vision." Accordingly, it is unclear what you are referring to in your letter. Similarly, the City is unaware of any meeting between the City and the Union or Billy Sylvia specifically that your associate Nourhene Chtourou referenced in her April 11, 2023 email regarding this information request. Accordingly, there are no responsive records to your request. If you could clarify with whom Mr. Sylvia is meeting and/or provide a copy of the proposal you are referring to, the City will review this further.

Nevertheless, in an effort to be responsive and provide relevant information in response to your request, the City is aware a public meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at which the City Council will review whether to adopt MGL c. 32, 15A, which would allow the City to decide whether to offer dental insurance to its employees. If the Council were to adopt this statute and the City subsequently determines it will offer such benefits, the City would meet any bargaining obligations it may have pursuant to law.

By way of further response, the City would remind you that fully insured dental and vision plans are not subject to the procurement processes outlined in M.G.L. c. 30B. In addition, as I am sure you are also aware, the PEC Agreement to which you refer in your letter was adopted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 32B, § 19, which addresses health insurance. Dental Insurance is only addressed as it relates to



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circumstances in which the public authority is transferring all subscribers to the GIC and such reference is limited to retirees and surviving spouses and their dependents enrolling in the GIC's dental insurance plan for same.

Very truly yours,

*Ann Marie Noonan*

Ann Marie Noonan

Cc: Elizabeth McNamara, First Assistant Solicitor  
City of New Bedford

Judi Keating, Director Human Resources  
City of New Bedford

Nourhene Chtourou, Esq.  
Barrault and Associates, LLP