

April 22, 2021

Ms. Alice Doyle
DEP – Waterways
1 Winter Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Waterways License Application Number W21-5952-N, New Bedford Port Authority

Dear Ms. Doyle:

We are writing on behalf of the Regeneration Project of the New Bedford Economic Development Council in support of the New Bedford Port Authority's waterways license application for restaurant use in the small shed on Pier 3. The Regeneration Project Committee is a collaborative platform that represents nearly 40 community, institutional, and business leaders who are committed to shaping, advocating for, and tangibly advancing strategies for sustainable and shared growth for the City of New Bedford and the region.

In our 2018 report, *Realizing the Potential*, we outline four "big ideas" to drive local, sustainable, and equitable economic growth in New Bedford. One of those big ideas is to build a vibrant, diverse, and uniquely New Bedford downtown and waterfront experience for all. This use directly advances the specific goal to strengthen New Bedford as a "food destination" with unique cultural flair. Small venues such as this are critical to showcasing the New Bedford fishing industry to citizens and visitors alike, while the commercial fishing vessels serve as a real-world reminder of what it takes to get that food to your plate. We also wish to note that such uses, in limited scope such as this, have been envisioned in the central waterfront in the stakeholder driven Urban Planning work completed by the City and Port Authority that has been approved by the Planning Board and is now before the City Council.

This use is compatible, small in scale at just over 200 sq. ft., and does not interfere with existing maritime uses on the pier given the scale of the pier and the existing year-round restaurant use already in place. We have seen since its opening that this popular venue is a driver of safe public access to the waterfront with local fishermen being counted amongst the many customers (and even suppliers) to the restaurant. Not only is this adaptive re-use of a simple shed a great way to positively brand and promote our national leading working waterfront, but it also employs 20 people during its open season, and financially helps to support the Designated Port Area (DPA) by lease payments to the Port Authority.

DEP regulations do allow for Supporting Uses in DPAs. This restaurant is one of those uses, and we encourage the Department to make that determination and issue the license as soon as practical. We thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

Anthony Sapienza, Co-Chair
President
New Bedford Economic Development Council

Rosemary Gill
Executive Director
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

Rick Kidder
CO-CEO
One SouthCoast Chamber of Commerce

David Slutz
Managing Director, President
Potentia Manufacturing Group
Moby Dick Brewing Company & Airport Grille

Joe Bahena
Senior Vice President
Joseph Abboud

Elizabeth Isherwood
Chairman, President
Greater New Bedford Industrial
Foundation, Moore & Isherwood
Communications, Inc.

Patrick Murray
President & CEO
Bristol County Savings Bank

Helena DaSilva Hughes
Executive Director
Immigrants' Assistance Center

Maureen Sylvia Armstrong, Co-Chair
Managing Partner
Sylvia Group

Nicholas Christ
President & CEO
BayCoast Bank

John Vasconcellos
President
SouthCoast Community Foundation

Stephen Silverstein
Founder & CEO
Servedwell Hospitality

Peter Muise
Retired, President and CEO
First Citizens' Federal Credit Union

Bob Unger
Chairman, Co-Owner, Principal
Leadership SouthCoast, Moby Dick
Brewing Company, Unger LeBlanc
Strategic Communications

Sarah Athanas
Co-Founder
Groundwork

Christopher Rezendes
Founder & President
INEX Advisors

Joseph Nauman

Retired, Executive Vice President,
Corporate and Legal
Acushnet Company

Maria Rosario

Executive Director
Whaling City Seafood Display Auction

Jeff Glassman

President
Darnit! Inc.

Paul Chasse

CEO
Realtor Association of Southeastern MA

Keith Decker

CEO & President
Blue Harvest Fisheries

Gail Fortes

Executive Director
YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts

Cheryl Bartlett

CEO
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center

Rontell Grant

Owner & CEO, Agent/Manager
Lite Weights Fitness, Kerry Horan Real
Estate

Amanda McMullen

President & CEO
New Bedford Whaling Museum

Quentin Ricciardi

CEO
Acorn Management

Adam Cove

CEO
Edson International

Elizabeth Wiley

Executive Director
Marion Institute

Anne Broholm

CEO
AHEAD, LLC