

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**among and between**

**Cities of Beverly, Peabody, Salem and the Town of Danvers (The Region)**

### **Purpose**

Notwithstanding long term efforts and commitment by the cities of Beverly, Peabody, and Salem, and the Town of Danvers to provide affordable housing within our region, we, the undersigned municipal executives, recognize a growing need for stable affordable and supportive housing for lower income families and individuals. Therefore, we commit to taking the following steps, collectively and individually, to develop more such affordable housing units. Specifically we agree to:

- 1. Commission a regional housing production plan in partnership with MAPC:**
  - This plan will be regional in nature by encompassing all four communities;
  - This plan will seek to supplement housing production plans prepared by each participating community by focusing on housing solutions that address various at risk populations, including but not limited to families, individuals, youth, and seniors.
  
- 2. Commit to supporting the production of two main types of permanent supportive housing for lower income families and individuals at risk of homelessness in each participating community over 5 years (2017-2022):**
  - 25 units of housing per community over five years for families that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
    - This requires multi bedroom units.
  - 15 units of housing per community over five years for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
    - This could address chronically homeless individuals, homeless seniors, or homeless youth for example.
  - This will total 100 family units and 60 individual units.
    - This is in response to data from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the North Shore HOME Consortium on the following items: 1) the number of homeless families in motels in the area, 2) the number of homeless families coming from the four communities and 3) the number of homeless individuals in these communities now.

- Participating communities commit to participate in the development of a regional housing plan to address at risk populations and to support implementation of recommendations developed from that planning process.

**3. Negotiate Priority Elements as a part of this commitment. This may include:**


- A local preference for all housing units for the total region.
  - The intent would be to allow first preference for residents of the region to access any unit created in the region under this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - This would likely be a percentage, but not all, of the total units.
- A reduction in year round individual shelter beds at the region's shelters for some ratio of units created. For example, a reduction of 25% of year round shelter beds as a ratio of units created would result in a reduction of 25 year round beds over 5 years.
  - Winter overflow beds up to current numbers could be allowed during determined months (i.e. December-March).
- A reduction in motel rooms used by the State for homeless families at some ratio of permanent units for homeless families created. This, like the logic above, would result in a percentage decrease from the current levels over 5 years. Also, as above, DHCD would need to affirm this agreement for it to be effective.

This MOU will lead to the creation of significant additional affordable housing to meet the needs of the target populations in our four communities, thereby reducing the reliance on shelter beds and motel rooms and increasing the stock of long term housing with supportive services. The objective is to house more people well and effectively so they can avoid the trauma of homelessness and contribute to our communities. This makes both financial and ethical sense for the region.



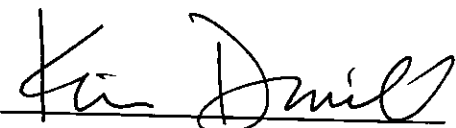
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Mayor, City of Beverly

2/2/17



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