

LEGAL NOTICE
COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

April 15, 2020

Commonwealth of MA, Dept. of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114
617-573-1300

City of Taunton
Taunton Housing Authority
30 Olney Street, Suite B
Taunton, MA 02780
508-823-6308

This notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by DHCD and the City of Taunton, through the Taunton Housing Authority.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about May 1, 2020 DHCD will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of \$750,000 under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) - Title II of the Cranston Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, and the City of Taunton will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Boston Regional Office for the release of Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) funds under Section 8, The Housing Act of 1937, as amended, for the purpose of attaching forty project-based vouchers to be utilized in a project known as Walker School Apartments, located at 135 Berkley Street Taunton, MA. The project consists of the adaptive reuse and new construction of 40 units of affordable rental housing for seniors. The project will use the following estimated sources of federal funds: \$750,000 in HOME. Expected additional public funding includes state AHT funds, state HIF, local AHT funds, federal and state low-income housing tax credits and historic tax credits. The project sponsor is Affordable Housing and Services Collaborative and Taunton Revitalization, Inc.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

DHCD and the City of Taunton have determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and will be made available for review electronically. Please submit your request by email to matthew.gibney@mass.gov and The City of Taunton to jhowland@taunton-ma.gov or the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Jeffrey Twerago at jeffrey.twerago@hud.gov

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to DHCD, Housing Development Division at matthew.gibney@mass.gov or the City of Taunton, Taunton Housing Authority, 30 Olney Street, Suite B, Taunton MA 02780, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Jeffrey Twerago jeffrey.twerago@hud.gov. All comments received by April 30, 2020 will be considered by DHCD, and the City of Taunton, Taunton Housing Authority prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Commonwealth of MA acting through DHCD certifies to HUD that Catherine Racer in her capacity as Certifying Officer, and Shaunna O'Connell as the Mayor the City of Taunton, in her capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the project, Walker School Apartments, to use HUD program funds for the purpose specified.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Commonwealth of MA's and City of Taunton's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer the Commonwealth of MA; (b) the Commonwealth of MA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Office of CPD - HUD at Bosenviromental@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD office via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

DHCD

Catherine Racer, Associate Director

City of Taunton

Shaunna O'Connell, Mayor

HUD

Jeffrey Twerago

TAUNTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Colleen Doherty, Executive Director