



Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

August 3, 2017

Mr. Dana Stanley
BSC Group
33 Waldo Street, suite 5
Worcester, MA 01608

Dear Mr. Stanley:

I am happy to report that, thanks to your support and that of dozens of others, we have achieved a critical milestone in the redevelopment of the historic Stearns Tavern to become a workforce training center with Seven Hills Foundation.

The city began this journey, in conjunction with Preservation Worcester and Seven Hills, with a dual goal to save one of Worcester's most historic structures and create new opportunities for people with disabilities. We did so with the intention of complementing the effort in tandem with the newly-developed (and recently-named) Coes Park. It was an aggressive, yet worthwhile, goal. The park will open later this summer, and will bring much joy to so many families. However, we did not attain our original goal to open the building simultaneously.

To date, in addition to the local, state, and federal levels of government, we have had 61 private sector firms, six not-for-profits and four unions participate in a host of different ways – including in-kind labor and materials and financial support – to bring us to where we are today.

Thanks to your efforts and those of our other supporters, we have received about \$677,000 to date in pro-bono and financial support from the private sector. To date, the renovation portion of the project has also received \$200,000 in public sector financial contributions. Thus, we are moving forward, but are still a distance from our goal.

The project, as you know, is complicated. Our collective goal is to have Seven Hills be able to properly operate the workforce training programs while encouraging the community to schedule meetings and events in the public portions of the building that are accessible to all. Our budget for the entire renovation effort is estimated to exceed \$1.4 million, so we ensure this 200-year old facility complies with current code requirements, conforms to accessibility standards, and follows the historic guidelines required under our agreements with the Historic Commission. Additional private sector and government financial support is needed, as pro-bono work will not

do it alone. We continue to aggressively pursue additional financial and pro bono support to complete our mission.

Many of you have supported this effort through pro-bono work, supplies or financial support. Several have committed in areas where we have not reached that phase of the rehabilitation process. Accordingly, although we are petitioning for additional financial support, mostly from government sources, we still are in need of your assistance going forward. Our overall budget is based upon the project receiving all committed donations. We thank you for your long-standing allegiance to this community-wide endeavor. It is crucial that we continue to have your support in order to complete the project on-time and within budget.

Because of all of our partners, what has been accomplished to date remains unprecedented, and we are most appreciative for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward M. Augustus, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager