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## CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### Newton Housing Partnership

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December 18, 2020

Ruthanne Fuller,  
Mayor

Barney Heath,  
Director  
Planning & Development

Mark Armstrong  
Lara Kritzer  
Community Preservation Committee  
Newton City Hall  
Newton, Ma 02459

Members:

Lizbeth Heyer, Chair  
Mark Caggiano  
Eliza Datta  
Chuck Eisenberg  
John Hennessey  
Kathy Marchi  
Josephine McNeil  
Marva Serotkin  
Stephen Tise

Dear Mark and Lara,

Please accept this letter as the Newton Housing Partnership's support for the \$1 million funding request to extend the Covid-19 Emergency Housing Relief Program. The program has been incredibly effective in helping 221 low and very low-income Newton households keep their housing during the national COVID health crisis that has caused extreme economic insecurity and the risk of homelessness.

The program needs to continue, as many participants will likely need help maintaining their housing stability for the remainder of the crisis due to ongoing job insecurity and an end to eviction moratoriums. The requested funding will extend the program through June 2021 and provide a full twelve months of assistance to the initial program participants as well as additional assistance to those who enter the program later.

The Partnership strongly encourages the CPC to grant this \$1 million funding request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Lizbeth Heyer*

Lizbeth Heyer  
Chair

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Amy Zarechian  
Executive Director

December 18, 2020

Lara Kritzer, Program Manager  
Community Preservation Committee, City of Newton  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

RE: COVID-19 Emergency Housing Relief Program

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I write in support of the current proposal from Mayor Fuller through the City of Newton Planning & Development Department to renew funding for the City of Newton's Emergency Housing Relief Program.

The Newton Housing Authority is the largest affordable housing provider in the City of Newton and is directly connected to low-income individuals and families who have been affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Many residents are single-parent households that have been forced to reduce hours or leave their employment due to lack of childcare and virtual learning needs of their children. In order to reduce their risk of exposure, other residents with pre-existing conditions have stopped working per recommendations from their medical providers. As the pandemic continues, the financial needs of households affected by COVID-19 will persist.

The Newton Housing Authority believes Newton residents will continue to utilize the support of the City's Emergency Housing Relief Program to preserve their tenancy. **The Emergency Housing Relief Program will provide critical financial relief to vulnerable Newton residents during this pandemic.**

Thank you for your review of this letter.

Best Wishes,

Rebecca Camargo, LICSW  
Director of Resident Services  
Newton Housing Authority  
82 Lincoln Street  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-552-5501  
[rcamargo@newtonhousing.org](mailto:rcamargo@newtonhousing.org)

cc: Amanda Berman, Director of Housing and Community Development, City of Newton Planning and Development Department

**From:** [Bill Humphrey](#)  
**To:** [Amanda Berman](#); [Lara Kritzer](#); [Barney Heath](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Albright](#); [Rebecca Walker Grossman](#); [Richard Lipof](#); [David Kalis](#)  
**Subject:** Further extending the rental assistance program  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:19:57 PM

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Hello –

I watched tonight's CPC meeting extending the rental assistance program by 2 months and projecting the money will be exhausted after that. It was noted that a further extension beyond 8 months would therefore require new funding to be appropriated. The projections stated were: For an additional month it would need \$285k more. To extend it to 12 months, it would need \$1.1 million more.

I firmly believe that we need to make that extension and my understanding is that we have CPA housing dollars still available to appropriate. I know I have constituents depending on that assistance, and I don't expect that things in the economy will turn around fast enough for a program expiring in February to be sufficient, especially given recent indications of delays on vaccine distribution. How soon could this request for approval of more CPA funds to extend the program be sent to the City Council for approval?

I am a bit concerned based on the meeting tonight about a possible "wait and see" approach because the process moves slowly on these things and because residents deserve more of a safety net than a couple month extensions at a time.

Sincerely,  
Bill Humphrey  
Newton Ward 5 Councilor  
712 Chestnut St Newton MA 02468  
617-862-2045

December 18, 2020

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

This letter is to support of allocation of additional funding for the City's Emergency Housing Relief Program. As we await federal relief funding and as the eviction moratorium has run out, we are already seeing eviction cases show up in the Newton District Court. This is a time like no other in memory with a need so great. We know that many of our lower income neighbors have lost their jobs and times are desperate for them. Protecting families at risk of losing housing during this treacherous time is of utmost importance.

Please approve funding for the Emergency Housing Relief Program.

Sincerely,

Doris Ann Sweet  
281 Lexington St.

December 18, 2020

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

Please support the request before you for additional funding for the City's Emergency Housing Relief Program.

Considering both the degree of need and the success of the program, I urge you to grant the \$1,200,000 to keep the program going through the end of June 2021.

Although we are a privileged community in many ways, now is the time to care for our neighbors and ensure that they may remain safe and in their Newton homes.

Although a more hopeful time seems to be on the horizon, housing can still be a matter of life or death. As we say in the Jewish tradition this time of year, 'l'chayim' – to life!

Thank you.

Fran Godine

19 Crofton Rd

Newton, 02468