



David B. Cohen
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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November 1, 2005

Dear Community Preservation Act Committee:

At a time of shrinking resources and growing demand for city services, this self-supporting community center is a shining example of residents stepping up to meet a need. Adolescents have been the City's most under-served population. Every week, 100 teens come to Brigham House to socialize. It is safe, supervised and the only program of its kind on the City's south side.

Providing healthy options for teens is important to the wellbeing of the entire City. So is the very existence of Brigham House, an historic presence in the Highlands. Property restored, it will afford many more opportunities to serve the community. I have every confidence in the creativity and dedication of those who revitalized this former library and made it a hub of the neighborhood once again.

I urge you to award Brigham House its building restoration grant.

Very truly yours,

David B. Cohen
Mayor

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

www.ci.newton.ma.us



DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE



**HYDE
COMMUNITY
CENTER**
*"The Heart of the
Highlands"*

P.O. Box 610171
Newton Highlands, MA 02461
www.HydeCenter.org

To whom it may concern:

The Brigham Community House is a vital and wonderful part of our community. From its wonderful historical charm to the many programs run there, it is a center of our community and an important source of guidance and growth for the teens in the Highlands (and beyond.)

The adult volunteers and "graduate" young adults are a model for engaging teens constructively and with fun! The Newton Highlands Community Development Corporation (NHCDC), which oversees the use of the Hyde community center, supports their programs with volunteers, donations of gym time and cooperation on many activities. In turn many of our programs are aided by teen volunteers from the Brigham House programs. Just this last month, for example, a large number of teen volunteers showed up from the Brigham House during the most physical part of the annual haunted house build. They were cheerful, energetic and extremely helpful, qualities that have been nurtured by continuing participation in Brigham House activities.

The NHCDC wholeheartedly supports the Brigham community house.

Kevin Osborn
2nd Vice President
NHCDC Board of Directors.



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January 25, 2006

To the Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

The Brigham Community House is an invaluable community resource that provides services to some of our City's residents who need them most. I firmly believe the CPA request for a renovation to the Brigham House falls within the letter and spirit for which the CPA is intended. I urge the committee to approve these much needed funds for this worthy facility.

The Brigham Community House, houses some of the City's most important and effective programs in Newton. While the Brigham House is widely known for its teen program, which reaches 150 teens every week, they offer important programs as well. For example, the Brigham House hosts Girl Scout troop meetings, offers free computer help for seniors, houses an adult alcohol abuse prevention program and a domestic violence women's support group, and is home to a teen sewing program sponsored by the Newton Highlands Congregational Church. Just this year, *The Irving K. Zola Center for Persons with Disabilities at Brigham House* was opened. The *The Irving K. Zola Center* is a drop-in community center for persons with disabilities, and it is the only one of its kind in the state of Massachusetts.

Funding the Brigham House with CPA funds is sensible and appropriate. The facility was constructed in the 1850's, and is in need of interior and exterior repairs to maintain the Brigham House's ability to serve our community. Located at 20 Hartford Street in the center of Newton Highlands, the building is recognized as a historic structure. Funding the exterior work would preserve the functionality of an important historic structure in the heart of one of our village squares. Funding the interior work would ensure that the century-and-a-half old facility retains its functionality.

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Among the criteria for allocating CPA funds is to provide recreation facilities for our citizens. The Brigham Community House does just that. Its extremely successful teen program affords our City's youth with a safe and relaxed atmosphere to gather and become involved in our community. Likewise, *The Irving K. Zola Center* creates an environment for persons with disabilities to meet, hold conversations, use computers, watch television or just relax for a few hours each week.

The Brigham Community House is an important resource that is in need of repair. This request meets the CPA funding requirements, and represents an important opportunity for us to restore and enhance the only recreational facility for our City's youth in the central and southern side of Newton. With innovative programs and a dedicated staff, the Brigham House has touched the lives of countless Newton residents, and I am grateful to Dr. Robert Staulo and the Brigham House staff for all they do for our community. I sincerely hope the CPC will fully fund this important proposal.

Very Truly Yours,



David B. Cohen (5148)
Mayor

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459



February 8, 2006

Jennifer Goldson
Community Preservation Planner
Department of Planning and Development
City Hall
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson:

In the summer of 2005, the Public Buildings Preservation Task Force met at Brigham House in Newton Highlands for a detailed tour of the premises. The tour included a presentation by the architect hired with CPA funds on what repairs and other improvements were necessary to preserve this historic building. The task force was persuaded that the study had yielded a very specific plan that would preserve the building and its historic character. I urge you to accept this letter as proof that the task force consultation provision of the grant has been completed. Please approve the proposal for the implementation of this plan.

Sincerely,

Brian Yates ⁽⁹⁵⁾

Alderman Brian Yates
Co-chair, Public Building Preservation Task Force

WABAN IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY
P.O. Box 6
Waban, Massachusetts 02468

Theresa A. Fitzpatrick
President

Kim Nauen
Vice President

July 12, 2005

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Waban Improvement Society to show support for Brigham House and all it does for the Newton Community at large.

Because of the support from Brigham House, the Waban Improvement Society, along with our Waban neighbors, was able to rebuild the Warren Lincoln Playground. The neighbors donated, not only the funds to buy the equipment, but their time to help build it as well.

Brigham House offers many great programs for the Newton Community. Many Waban residents have taken part in the programs that are offered through Brigham House. The Waban Improvement Society appreciates all that Brigham House offers for all it's neighbors.

Much thanks to Brigham House for helping Waban. We wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

Theresa Fitzpatrick
President

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Theresa Fitzpatrick
President