

September 18, 2009

Alderman Leonard J. Gentile
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Notification of Intent to Purchase Property

Dear Alderman Gentile:

I am writing to inform you of CAN-DO's intention to purchase a property at 2148-50 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale to create two units of affordable housing. We are negotiating a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the property and are in the process of obtaining funding commitments for the acquisition and needed repairs.

We will not be seeking any type of zoning relief as we plan to continue the existing use of the building as a two-family residence and are making no alterations, which will impact upon the dimensional requirements. The renovations will consist of removal of lead, removal and repair of front concrete steps, demolition of existing garage, repaving of driveway, structural repairs to back porches, and other cosmetic repairs in order to ensure that the units meet the habitability standards required by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as the City of Newton's Health Department.

We will apply for Community Preservation Funds to assist with the acquisition costs so that we can minimize the debt of the property in order to be able to provide two units of housing affordable to low-income families. We are targeting the housing for homeless veterans and their families. They will receive rental subsidies from the Veterans Administration and HUD. .

I hope I can count on your support in our ongoing efforts to provide affordable, safe and attractive housing for low-income families. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 617-964-3527.

Sincerely,

Josephine McNeil
Executive Director

September 18, 2009

Alderman Amy John W. Harney
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Notification of Intent to Purchase Property

Dear Alderman Harney:

I am writing to inform you of CAN-DO's intention to purchase a property at 2148-50 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale to create two units of affordable housing. We are negotiating a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the property and are in the process of obtaining funding commitments for the acquisition and needed repairs.

We will not be seeking any type of zoning relief as we plan to continue the existing use of the building as a two-family residence and are making no alterations, which will impact upon the dimensional requirements. The renovations will consist of removal of lead, removal and repair of front concrete steps, demolition of existing garage, repaving of driveway, structural repairs to back porches, and other cosmetic repairs in order to ensure that the units meet the habitability standards required by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as the City of Newton's Health Department.

We will apply for Community Preservation Funds to assist with the acquisition costs so that we can minimize the debt of the property in order to be able to provide two units of housing affordable to low-income families. We are targeting the housing for homeless veterans and their families. They will receive rental subsidies from the Veterans Administration and HUD. .

I hope I can count on your support in our ongoing efforts to provide affordable, safe and attractive housing for low-income families. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 617-964-3527.

Sincerely,

Josephine McNeil
Executive Director

September 18, 2009

Alderman Amy Mah Sangiolo
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Notification of Intent to Purchase Property

Dear Alderman Sangiolo:

I am writing to inform you of CAN-DO's intention to purchase a property at 2148-50 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale to create two units of affordable housing. We are negotiating a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the property and are in the process of obtaining funding commitments for the acquisition and needed repairs.

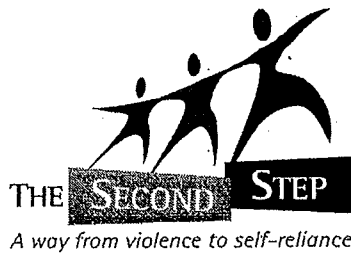
We will not be seeking any type of zoning relief as we plan to continue the existing use of the building as a two-family residence and are making no alterations, which will impact upon the dimensional requirements. The renovations will consist of removal of lead, removal and repair of front concrete steps, demolition of existing garage, repaving of driveway, structural repairs to back porches, and other cosmetic repairs in order to ensure that the units meet the habitability standards required by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as the City of Newton's Health Department.

We will apply for Community Preservation Funds to assist with the acquisition costs so that we can minimize the debt of the property in order to be able to provide two units of housing affordable to low-income families. We are targeting the housing for homeless veterans and their families. They will receive rental subsidies from the Veterans Administration and HUD. .

I hope I can count on your support in our ongoing efforts to provide affordable, safe and attractive housing for low-income families. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 617-964-3527.

Sincerely,

Josephine McNeil
Executive Director



September 18, 2009

Ms. Josephine Mc Neil
CAN-DO
1075 Washington Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dear Ms. McNeil,

I am delighted to write this letter in support of the Veteran House project you are initiating with the Boston VA. As a long term collaborator with you at Garfield House, which provides transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence, I have every confidence that your new endeavor will provide critically needed housing and services for the veteran population that increasingly encounters homelessness.

Staff at The Second Step are ready to provide an array of services to augment those available through the Boston VA. As you know, we have 17 year history of supporting survivors of domestic violence to stabilize and rebuild their lives and the lives of their children after abuse. Our service continuum includes: financial planning and credit counseling training, linkage to GED and ESL programs, referral for employment training and job placement, tenancy counseling, legal advocacy, referral for daycare, afterschool, summer and weekend programming. In addition; case managers have referral relationships for substance abuse services, as well as, medical, dental and mental health needs.

We look forward to expanding our partnership efforts with you. We also look forward to this new linkage with the Boston VA. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I can further elaborate our backing for this exciting project.

Sincerely,

Roberta Rosenberg
Executive Director

P.O. Box 600213, Newtonville, MA 02460-0002 • Tel: 617-965-3999 Fax: 617-965-3354
www.thesecondstep.org



September 18, 2009

Ms. Josephine McNeil, Executive Director
Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization
1075 Washington Street
West Newton, Massachusetts 02465

Dear Ms. McNeil:

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write a letter of support for the 2 unit project being developed by CAN-DO targeted for homeless women and their children. The population of homeless female veterans is growing rapidly. These women and their children are in significant need of housing and the supportive services necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence.

CAN-DO has both the expertise and the community connections to develop a successful program. CAN-DO's long history of providing affordable housing for women and children in the city of Newton as well as their collaborative relationships with many other human service agencies uniquely positions the agency for this project.

Newton Community Service Center (NCSC) has worked in partnership with CAN-DO through the Kayla Rosenberg House (KRH), a transitional living program, for over six years. We have developed a working relationship that fully supports the residents of KRH in their journey towards self sufficiency and independent living. NCSC would make every attempt to provide similar services to the families of this new project, contingent upon sufficient funding.

Services provided by NCSC could include the following, dependent upon the specific needs of the family:

- Case management – including linkage, referrals, advocacy and support pertaining to employment training/opportunities, educational opportunities, child care access, and after school/summer camp programming access
- Counseling regarding trauma for both the women and their children

If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at (617) 969-5906, ext. 297. I look forward to working collaboratively with CAN-DO to provide needed services to this vulnerable population.

Sincerely,


Debra Sosin, LICSW
Vice President, Child & Family Services