



July 25, 2019

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

As you and your advisors begin your review of H.4000, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020, I would like to highlight several important community economic-development priorities included therein, and respectfully request that you accept these provisions and sign them into law as recommended.


H.4000 incorporates the following MACDC priorities:

- **Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA):** Increases program's funding by 50% from \$2 million in FY19 to \$3 million in FY20. Additional funding will support new businesses, new jobs, and the overall enhanced economic stability in neighborhoods and towns across the Commonwealth.
- **Chapter 206:** Increases funding available to the Division of Banks by 40% to \$2.805 million. This program supports nonprofit housing counseling services that provide homebuyer education and foreclosure-prevention counseling.
- **Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative:** Provides \$750,000 for a capacity-building program through MassHousing and MassDevelopment, in coordination with MACDC and MassINC – a recommendation drawn from our January 2019 study, “Building Communities of Promise and Possibility.” This program will help local governments and community partners implement neighborhood-level revitalization efforts to address vacant and abandoned properties in Gateway cities and rural areas and convert these buildings into homeownership opportunities and rental housing.
- **CPA Trust Fund:** Increases most recording fees at the Registries of Deeds from \$20 to \$50, which would raise an estimated \$36 million in additional annual revenue for CPA beginning in 2020 and increase the CPA match for all 175 CPA communities to approximately 30%. The Legislature also agreed to language that will authorize up to \$20 million from the state's budget surplus to expand the November 2019 distribution. CPA supports the creation of affordable housing, preservation of historical sites, open space preservation, and the development of recreational facilities, and these funds are a vital source for community-led economic development and preservation across the Commonwealth.

Beyond these budget priorities, MACDC and its members have been pleased to work with the Baker-Polito Administration to advance several shared housing and economic development priorities in recent years. As a follow up to our discussion about homeownership policy at the October 2018 MACDC Convention, we prepared, at Secretary Jay Ash's request, an extensive memorandum for your Administration and agencies to review as you considered the Commonwealth's homeownership policy initiatives. We have been pleased to join DHCD and Mass Housing for the convenings of the Homeownership Advisory Committee to examine how we can advance a balanced and well-designed strategy for expanding homeownership opportunities. We have been willing partners to Secretary Kennealy in his statewide drive to advance Housing Choice legislation, and we were pleased to join with you, Undersecretary Chan, and MassHousing Executive Director Kornegay to celebrate \$86 million in new funding to expand the Administration's Workforce Housing Initiative, including \$60 million to support homeownership and help to narrow the racial homeownership/wealth gap.

The important initiatives outlined above are helping families and businesses to succeed across Massachusetts. MACDC members remain grateful for your prior support for many of these programs. We are committed to working with your Administration and the Legislature, and we look forward to our continuing collaboration and productive partnership in the coming year.

Sincerely,



David A. Bryant
Director of Advocacy