



Testimony

In support of Proposed Changes to the Boston Residents Jobs Policy

**Steven Godfrey, President/CEO
Quincy-Geneva Housing Corporation/New Vision CDC**

on behalf of

**Joseph Kriesberg, President
Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
December 8, 2016**

Good afternoon, Councilors, I am Steven Godfrey, President and CEO of Quincy-Geneva Housing Corporation/New Vision CDC (QGHC), a community-based community development corporation founded in 1983. Quincy Geneva Housing Corporation advocates for self-sufficiency by creating affordable housing opportunities and by providing workforce development services. Over the past 30 years, QGHC has made a commitment to assist low- and moderate-income families obtain affordable rental housing and homeownership opportunities. We are dedicated to serving our community members in areas of vocational and employment opportunities, as well as, raising the economic and educational level of our residents.

On behalf of Joe Kriesberg, who was unable to attend because of jury duty obligation, and the members and Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), we wish to express our support for the proposed ordinance which would strengthen the Boston Residents Jobs Policy.

Specifically, we support increasing the hiring standards for Boston residents, for workers of color, and for women to 51%, 40%, and 12% respectively. We also support strengthening the reporting requirements and enforcement provisions to ensure that all developers work as hard as possible to achieve these goals.

MACDC and its members have a longstanding commitment to ensuring that our construction projects generate economic opportunities for Boston residents, workers of color, women,

minority-owned enterprises and woman-owned enterprises. Over the past four years, we have worked in partnership with the Massachusetts Minority Contractors Association to enhance CDCs efforts to engage M/WBEs in CDC-led construction projects and to hold ourselves accountable to high levels of performance. Six CDCs have participated in the pilot phase of this project and 12 CDC sponsored real estate projects have participated. So far, those projects have achieved significant results, including:

- 61% workers of color;
- 45% Boston resident workers;
- 5% women workers;
- 35% of the contract dollars, including hard and soft costs, went to MBEs for a total of \$52.6 million in business opportunities; and
- 40% of contract dollars went to MBEs and WBEs combined (no double counting) for a total of \$59.7 million in business opportunities.

The six CDCs in this program are Urban Edge, Jamaica Plain NDC, Nuestra CDC, Madison Park DC, Codman Square NDC and Dorchester Bay EDC.

MACDC and MMCA announced on December 2 that we will be launching a second phase of this program in 2017 with all six of these CDCs continuing to participate, along with Asian CDC, NOAH, IBA and Somerville CC. More CDCs may yet join this effort as we try to expand economic opportunities across the city and the region.

We would like to offer a few additional thoughts about the proposed ordinance:

1. We support the emerging consensus that the definition of workers of color should be modified to include all Hispanics and Latinos;
2. It will be much more likely that we will achieve these goals if we have a robust, diverse set of general contractors and sub-contractors available in the City of Boston, especially MBEs, WBEs and other small, locally owned companies. We do not want the reporting requirements and enforcement penalties to discourage small, local contractors, especially those owned by people of color, from participating in our construction industry. We hope the City will apply its enforcement powers judiciously and that technical assistance will be provided to those MBEs, WBEs and other local businesses that need help implementing the systems needed to comply.
3. Achieving these goals will also require everyone to work together to expand the number of qualified construction workers who can participate. It is particularly important that the Building Trades continue efforts to recruit more people of color,

women and Boston residents to their ranks. It also underscores the importance of strengthening the programs offered at Madison Park Vocational School so we have a strong pipeline of young people coming into the trades.

MACDC applauds Mayor Walsh, the City Council and the advocates who have advanced this ordinance thus far. We look forward to working with all of you to ensure its successful implementation.