

# CITY OF PEABODY

24 LOWELL STREET  
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS 01960



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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

March 18, 2019

Sean R. Cronin  
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services  
Division of Local Services  
PO Box 9569  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Cronin,

On March 16, 2016, the City of Peabody submitted a Community Compact Application. One of the items listed on the application, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT BEST PRACTICE: Promote Local Agriculture, has been completed. Supporting local agriculture has been a priority for the City of Peabody. Updates on local agricultural ventures include:

- **Tillie's Farm**: Since the time of the application, the City of Peabody has assumed management of Tillie's Farm. The Farm sells flowers and plants that are grown in their three greenhouses. The Farm Store also sells tomatoes, corn, pumpkins, apples, cider and other produce, along with Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias, all acquired from Brooksby Farm. Tillie's Farm plans to start farming one specialty item which will be determined shortly. Tillie's Farm also houses a community-based herb garden, run by volunteers and supported by the City. Future plans call for expanding the herb garden.
- **Brooksby Farm**: The City-owned Farm continues to operate year-round, offering fresh fruits, produce, honey, apple cider, baked goods and other seasonal items in its store. It also provides apple picking, fruit picking, holiday items, and recreational opportunities such as hayrides and cross-country trails for walking, running and cross-country skiing. The Farm continues to manage the surrounding forest, wetlands and fields.
- **The Annual Peabody Farmers Markets**: The Peabody Farmers Markets, held in conjunction with Peabody Main Streets, was held in downtown Peabody at the Leather City Common. Local vendors sold their products every other week from June through September. The City provided advertising, marketing, entertainment and other support services.

- **Commercial Kitchens:** Citizens Inn/Haven from Hunger, which provides a food pantry, meals, and shelters for the homeless and is located in Peabody, will be partnering with North Shore Community College this spring to offer a 15-week culinary arts training program to homeless individuals to provide them with skills they need to obtain a job in the food service industry. The City of Peabody has provided the Citizens Inn with over \$100,000 in funding for the build-out of the commercial kitchen. However, the program is in need of additional funds in order to offer the training to additional homeless individuals and expand its program. Several other shared commercial kitchens are in the planning stages, including one owned by a local Italian Restaurant looking to provide nutritional meals and open its kitchen to other local entrepreneurs. The Italian Restaurant is applying for funding from the City of Peabody to assist in its shared commercial kitchen buildout.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr.  
Mayor, City of Peabody

Cc: Curt Bellavance, Community Development Director  
Debbie MacGregor, Business Liaison