COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

July 29, 2025

The Honorable Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
Secretary, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114

Secretary Augustus,

We are writing to request timely updates from your office regarding the proposed Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter located at 5 Redlands Road in the West Roxbury section of the City of Boston. In particular, we are seeking information regarding Making Opportunity Count's recently withdrawn, and now resubmitted application with the City of Boston's Inspectional Services Department (ISD). It is our understanding that their original application was rejected by ISD.

Neighbors have expressed significant concerns that MOC may be attempting to move forward with this project despite ISD's prior Zoning Code Refusal, potentially bypassing necessary zoning oversight and limiting further public input. Our offices urge you as Secretary to ensure that there are no further developments until the City of Boston provides the necessary zoning approval to do so. Since the outset of this proposal, our offices have repeatedly emphasized the need for transparent communication and meaningful community engagement from both your office and MOC. These expectations remain unchanged. It is imperative that the voices of neighbors and abutters are fully considered before any decisions are finalized, along with the necessary zoning modifications required by the city.

We respectfully request that you provide us with updated information regarding these concerns. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and we look forward to receiving information we can share with our constituents.

Sincerely,

Mike Rush
State Senator
Norfolk and Suffolk District

Bill MacGregor
State Representative
10th Suffolk District

cc: Colby O'Brien- Vice President of Programs, Making Opportunity Count
Kevin Reed- Executive Director, Making Opportunity Count
Her Excellency Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Honorable Michelle Wu, Mayor of the City of Boston