

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Maura Healey  
Governor of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts State House, Room 280  
24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133

**RE: Petition Opposing the 5 Redlands Road Shelter Proposal**

Dear Governor Healey,

On behalf of a group of more than 300 concerned community members, we present a petition urging you to stop the proposed shelter at 5 Redlands Road in West Roxbury. This project is advancing without transparency, in violation of zoning, and without the community engagement families and neighborhoods deserve. It is being pushed by private companies that are hiding behind state programs while filing misleading applications.

Our community shares your values and commitment to safe, humane responses to family homelessness. Yet this plan, funded through EOHLC and operated by Making Opportunity Count (MOC), mirrors the “hotel shelter” model that your administration has committed to ending. Converting a large institutional building into a shelter for families doesn’t work, it leads to instability and safety incidents. As you yourself said, shelters like these are “*no place to raise a family.*”

Our concerns include:

**Zoning & Use:** The proposal does not align with the plain language and clear intent of Boston's zoning laws and should not be pushed through under other provisions. Two zoning applications have been denied, yet the owner has continued to alter filings in order to evade proper zoning review. There is no precedent for approving a project of this kind without full oversight.

**Life Safety & Overcrowding:** The building has inadequate facilities for families, only shared bathrooms and a single basement kitchen for hundreds of people, creating serious fire, sanitation, and habitability risks.

**Site History:** As a nursing home, the site operated 50 beds. Expanding capacity to 192 people and intensifying the use would dangerously magnify traffic, health, and security problems.

**Transparency:** The lease and planning moved ahead in secrecy and with no community engagement. Important documentation has been withheld or only released after the fact.

It's important to note that State Senator Mike Rush and Representative Bill MacGregor have sent three letters to EOHLC requesting a pause to this project so the community could be notified and engaged. These appeals have been ignored as the owner and operator continue to press forward without community involvement.

We urge you to direct EOHLC to pause this project and pursue better alternatives that you have endorsed: housing assistance and smaller, scattered-site housing that integrates families into communities safely and sustainably. We respectfully ask for your intervention to:

- Halt the project under its current terms.
- Require a full plan covering staffing, safety, transportation, sanitation, and security.
- Direct EOHLC and its partners to act transparently and release public documents.
- Pursue smaller, scattered-site alternatives consistent with your office's stated goals.

Our community has spoken clearly: this site is not safe or suitable for the proposed shelter project. We respectfully request a pause on this project until these concerns are addressed, and we welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to present our findings and constructive alternatives.

Thank you for listening and for your commitment to improving the Massachusetts shelter system. With your leadership, we can protect vulnerable families while preserving community livability.

Respectfully,

**Redlands–Manthorne Neighborhood Alliance**

A community group of concerned residents of West Roxbury

cc:

The Honorable Michael F. Rush, Massachusetts State Senator

The Honorable Bill MacGregor, Massachusetts State Representative

The Honorable Edward M. Augustus, Jr., Secretary, EOHLC

The Honorable Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston

Councilor Erin Murphy, Boston City Council

Councilor Ben Weber, Boston City Council (District 6)

Mr. Larry Costello, President, West Roxbury Neighborhood Council

Enclosure:

Petition Opposing the Shelter Proposal at 5 Redlands Road (Aug 25, 2025)