



Martha's Vineyard Commission

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William Rossi
Chair, Chilmark Board of Selectmen

July 31, 2017

Dear Mr. Rossi:

For many years the Martha's Vineyard Commission has placed the provision of affordable and workforce housing at the top of our policy agenda. For all relevant development proposals which come before the Commission, we apply a policy which requires either that the applicant supply on-site affordable housing or workforce housing or, alternatively where that is not feasible, provide funds for such housing to be provided off-site by affordable housing development organizations.

In recognition of the fact that securing housing for Islanders is a critical issue that the Commission also faces, we have determined to provide workforce housing capacity for our own organization. On June 15, 2017 the Commission voted unanimously to develop an employee housing program. We believe this is an important initiative to assist the Commission in recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff. The Commission is currently in the process of developing the specifics of such a program.

The MVC staff-housing program will be initially funded from equity on our current properties. The Commission will own and maintain any property. On an ongoing basis, employee(s) residing in Commission-provided housing will pay rent. Any difference between the rent received and the Commission's costs will be budgeted, and in the foreseeable future it is not anticipated that this will increase the Towns' assessments. Increased equity in any property will accrue to the Commission.

We are excited to proceed with this program, but we are mindful of the need to ensure that it is administered transparently and in a manner consistent with the public trust. As we develop the specifics of the program and the supporting policy, we will continue to keep all the towns informed.

Thank you,



Jim Vercruysse
Chairman Martha's Vineyard Commission

cc: Town Administrator

