

Sanford Springvale

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City of Sanford | 919 Main Street, Sanford, Maine 04073 | (207) 324-9173 | sanfordmaine.org

Office of the City Manager

Testimony in Support of LD 2277

A Resolve Authorizing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to Convey by Sale the Interest of the State in 3 Properties Located Biddeford, Sanford, and York”

Senator Teresa Pierce
Representative Traci Gere
Members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing

I am Steven Buck, City Manager of Sanford, and I offer support of the Resolve by the City of Sanford for acquisition of the Property in Sanford and for the Sanford Housing Authority to rehabilitate the Property into affordable senior housing.

One of the City’s strongest initiatives is to improve the continuum of all housing to support both workforce and economic development. The City further recognizes the best use for the Property is for Affordable Senior Housing due both the need and the location of the Sanford Property. The Sanford Housing Authority and City have partnered on a number of housing projects through our Land Bank. One of the most progressive and beneficial areas has been in affordable senior housing meeting the need and having positive ancillary benefits of opening up single family housing units for younger families and workforce. We see the positive results in our school enrollments (more students), workforce and increased average incomes, all while supporting the affordable needs of senior populations within our Region.

Redevelopment of the Property in Sanford for Affordable Senior Housing falls within our Comprehensive Plan and capitalizes on a multitude of accessory services in close proximity for a walking population for Healthcare, Library, Community Center, Theater, Stores and Pharmacy, Eateries, City Parking, and a neighboring Market Rate Senior complex. The re-use would be compliant and add to the village environment as propagated by the City’s planning.

LD 2277 and the proposed sale of the Sanford Property ultimately to the Sanford Housing Authority would leverage the existing working partnership with the City of Sanford into a re-use that both aligns with the City’s goals for housing but also builds upon a successful model that has demonstrated long term benefits stemming from the Senior Housing. Those benefits would be multi-faceted not just for the needs of affordable senior housing, but also has proven beneficial to other levels of housing as today’s seniors are transitioning to a more affordable housing option than single family ensuring longevity in this new form of quality housing.

City Manager: Steven R. Buck

City Council: Becky A. Brink, Mayor | Maura A. Herlihy, Deputy Mayor |

Robert G. Stackpole | Ayn M. Hanselmann | Peter E. Tranchemontagne | Jonathan Martell | Nathan H. Hitchcock



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LD 2277 is an opportunity to repurpose the State's initial investment in the Sanford Property into one of the most sought-after commodities of Housing, and particularly Affordable Senior Housing. The Partners of the City of Sanford and the Sanford Housing Authority will leverage resources to meet the future needs of our State to ensure the public benefit is at least as positive as in the Property's first use.

Submitted,

Steven R. Buck

Steve R. Buck
City Manager, Sanford