



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

U.S Economic Development Administration Awards New Bedford Economic Development Council with \$200,000 Grant for Waterfront Development

New Bedford, Massachusetts - On April 23, 2014, Mayor Jon Mitchell joined Derek Santos, Executive Director of the Economic Development Council and Matthew Morrissey, Director of the New Bedford Wind Energy Center in welcoming U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Matt Erskine to the City of New Bedford. Assistant Secretary Erskine announced a \$200,000 U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to the New Bedford Economic Development Council. The grant will be used to help ensure that New Bedford's historic waterfront industries successfully coexist with the City's future offshore wind industry. Specifically, it will support the creation of an advanced port development and redevelopment plan that will guide New Bedford as it works to attract new types of manufacturing and jobs associated with wind power infrastructure, commercial fishing, and tourism.

Mayor Mitchell stated, "New Bedford Harbor is the economic backbone of the City's economy and we need to plan now to ensure the future viability of existing waterfront industries as well as to maximize future opportunities for new economic activities to take hold. The process to secure these funds was extremely competitive and our success reflects both widespread support in the community for our application and the EDA's confidence in New Bedford. On behalf of the City, I want to express my gratitude to the Obama Administration and EDA for this award."

With the EDA's investment, the City will develop a master and urban renewal plan that will create an updated vision for a working waterfront. The strategy will focus on phased development over a 10-15 year timeframe that can integrate offshore wind, commercial fishing, and cultural tourism. The planning project, which will take an estimated 18 months, will focus on development adjacent to South Terminal, the NStar Site and State Pier. Mayor Mitchell hopes to involve the public throughout all phases of the planning process by engaging key private and public sector stakeholders, district commercial property owners, and operating businesses.

"Planning is a critical component of any economic development project," said U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Matt Erskine. "This EDA

investment will allow New Bedford to move forward in increasing and diversifying its job base by attracting private sector investment for the offshore wind industry related to specialized large scale manufacturing while also providing support for the city's longstanding commercial fishing and cultural tourism sectors."

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

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