



*City of Beverly, Massachusetts*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **RE: BEVERLY DESIGNATED HOUSING CHOICE COMMUNITY BY BAKER-POLITO ADMINISTRATION**

### BEVERLY – The City of Beverly is pleased to again be selected as a Housing Choice Community for the second consecutive time. Launched in December 2017 as part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s Housing Choice Initiative, this designation recognizes communities that adopt best practices for boosting housing production by making them eligible for competitive capital grants and preferential treatment for many state grant and capital funding programs. Beverly was in the first class of designees in 2018. Today, there are 74 Housing Choice Communities designated in the Commonwealth.

Beverly’s selection is based on meeting numerical benchmarks for housing production, including producing more than 500 housing units in 5 years, and implementing best practices for the creation of housing. These units have largely been created through new transit oriented development housing and commercial/retail buildings downtown near the Beverly Depot commuter rail station.

The Baker-Polito Administration has awarded \$4 million to 19 communities through the Housing Choice Capital Grant Program. In 2019, Beverly received a \$150,000 Housing Choice Community Capital Grant from the Baker-Polito Administration to complete a design and engineering study for a “Mobility Hub” around the Beverly Depot. The City hired a consultant to design the necessary infrastructure improvements, services, and place-making to upgrade the Beverly Depot area into a true multi-modal transportation hub for the City of Beverly and the region.

“Housing Choice grants reward and encourage municipalities’ efforts to increase housing production and exemplify the support we believe is critical to empowering community development,” **said Governor Charlie Baker in his 2019 announcement.**

The Housing Choice Designation is part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s strategy to produce 135,000 new housing units by 2025 to meet the high demand of housing across the state. The Baker-Polito Administration has shown a deep commitment to increasing the production of

housing across income levels. Since 2015, the administration has invested more than \$1.1 billion in affordable housing, resulting in the production and preservation of more than 18,000 housing units, including 16,000 affordable units

“Thank you to the Baker-Polito Administration for selecting Beverly for Housing Choice Community designation again. Beverly has made real progress towards meeting our housing needs, including affordable housing production and for the implementation of best transit oriented design practices to encourage sustainable development”, **said Beverly Mayor Michael Cahill.**

“Achieving Housing Choice Designation is a testament to a strong commitment by the City administration, along with many stakeholders and residents who have supported our efforts in creating new affordable and market rate housing opportunities. There are strong partnerships in Beverly and a knowledgeable citizenry; both are necessary to move the City forward in supporting the creation and preservation of high quality and affordable housing”, **said Darlene Wynne, Director of Planning and Community Development.** ###