



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

133 William Street • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

TEL: 508-979-1455 • FAX: 508-979-1451

Hugh C. Dunn, Esq.

Councillor Ward Three

April 30, 2018

The Honorable Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor
City Hall
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

We are writing to condemn the use of inhumane architecture in the City of New Bedford. The dangerous and malicious placement of the spiked cobblestones in the median at the entry of our City is wrong.

The spiked cobblestones are quite simply designed to hurt people. We as a City cannot be hurting people, and it is an outrage that we are spending City dollars to make others suffer. To design our public spaces in such a demoralizing manner is unacceptable. This crude architecture merely addresses the symptoms of panhandling, rather than the societal issues driving this issue.

As a City we need to look at ways to help those who are suffering from mental health issues, substance abuse disorders and overall poverty - rather than employing medieval tactics that merely move the "problem" down the street.

We as a City are better than this.

Very truly yours,

Hugh C. Dunn, Esq.,
Councillor Ward Three

Ian Abreu
Councillor at Large

Maria E. Giesta
Councillor Ward Two

HCD: rrr

cc: File