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POSITION STATEMENT

The application of SeaStreak, LLC to operate a high-speed passenger ferry service between New Bedford and Nantucket, commencing in May 2016.

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business advocacy and economic development organization. It has a diverse membership base of 1,000 businesses – primarily small and medium size - in the SouthCoast region of Massachusetts. This policy position is intended to serve as guidelines for the Chamber's Government Affairs efforts and has been reviewed and approved by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee and Board of Directors.

Adopted: 11/5/2015

Position: The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors fully endorses and supports the application of SeaStreak, LLC to operate a high-speed passenger ferry service between New Bedford and Nantucket (beginning May 2016) for the following reasons:

- SeaStreak proposed service would restore the historic connection between New Bedford and Nantucket.
- The Nantucket ferry service will allow SeaStreak to bring its second high speed ferry back to New Bedford.
- With the addition of the Nantucket service, and the need for a second ferry, SeaStreak would be able to hire additional marine & administrative staff from the New Bedford area.

- Nantucket ferry service from New Bedford would help with economic development in New Bedford by bringing in tourism dollars to local restaurants, shops, & museums.
- SeaStreak proposed service would provide a convenient alternative to driving through cape traffic to get to Hyannis ferries.
- New Bedford is equipped with adequate parking to accommodate additional vehicles in both the Whales Tooth Parking lot Elm street garage.
- Both parking options would increase parking revenue for the city of New Bedford.
- Direct ferry service from New Bedford would prove itself to be a life line to the local airlines on days that aircraft are grounded due to fog and inclement weather.
- Passengers will now have the option to bypass Cape traffic by traveling out of New Bedford.
- The public will have good intermodal connection service with Dattco & Megabus from Boston, Providence, Newport & New York.
- Local business will be able to supply Nantucket with light freight shipments as we currently do to Martha's Vineyard, with fresh seafood, flowers, produce, and other time sensitive products that need to be transported to the islands from the mainland.

Rationale: Restoring ferry service between New Bedford and Nantucket would create increased economic development throughout Greater New Bedford by providing tourism dollars for our downtown-area restaurants and retailers. The additional ferry service would also call for a second ferry in its fleet, thus creating additional marine & administrative employment opportunities for the Greater New Bedford community.

Furthermore, it should be noted also that restoring such ferry service also has the potential to create two-way commerce between New Bedford and Nantucket as local businesses from both communities will now have the ability to provide light freight shipments back-and-forth on a daily basis.

While this statement is policy as of the effective date of this document, the Chamber reserves the right to adopt changes and make modifications and additions to its policies, and will continue to monitor issues as they develop.

Please contact Kim Perry, Chair of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee at (508) 999-5231 with any questions regarding this policy position.

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit business association based in the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Chartered in 1885, the Chamber serves nearly 1,000 member businesses of all sizes from virtually all industries in the ten communities of New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester, Wareham, and Westport. The Chamber supports and promotes the local business community through leadership in public advocacy, education, networking, information, and community development.

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