

*City of Taunton  
Office of the Mayor*



For Immediate Press Release: 11/12/2021

Contact Person: Radka Barter  
508-821-1000

**O'CONNELL ANNOUNCES \$100K URBAN RENEWAL GRANT**

Taunton, MA...Today Mayor O'Connell announced the City of Taunton has received \$100,000 through the Housing Choice Initiative competitive grant program offered through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. This grant will be used to fund an Urban Renewal Plan for Whittenton Village.

"The revitalization of our urban neighborhoods has been a priority of my administration and this plan will be a major liftoff for the Whittenton area. I am grateful for the collaborative work our Office of Economic and Community Development has done to secure this grant and to continuously find opportunities to improve our neighborhoods," O'Connell stated.

The Housing Choice Initiative, now in its fourth year, is a program created by Governor Baker's administration to reward communities that have achieved certain levels of housing production over a 5-year period. The Housing Choice Initiative provides new grants, coordinates technical assistance across various housing agencies, and promotes regulatory innovation to empower municipalities to expand diverse housing opportunities.

Having an active Urban Renewal Plan is necessary for the effective operation of the Taunton Redevelopment Authority (TRA). Mayor O'Connell filled a number of vacant positions earlier this year by appointing new members to the TRA and has committed to reviving and revitalizing the TRA and making it functional and productive.

Previous Urban Renewal Plans have been completed in different sections of Downtown in decades past while this plan will be centered in Whittenton. "Whittenton Village has played an important role in Taunton's history," stated O'Connell. "We believe this renewed focus and planning effort will facilitate new investment and vibrancy in this section of our City. I am excited to see what the future will bring for this much-loved and historic neighborhood."

###