



August 20, 2020

Mr. Dion Irish, Commissioner
Inspectional Services Department
1010 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

Re: **Guidance for Permitting Off-campus Spaces for Temporary Institutional Uses:**
Emerson College, Park Plaza Hotel

Dear Commissioner Irish:

This letter serves as a recommendation to approve the temporary institutional uses for Emerson College, as described herein, in accordance with the interdepartmental guidance (the "Guidance") towards permitting non-institutional spaces to be used for the purposes of institutional de-densification, issued by the City of Boston on July 9, 2020, and in accordance with the Boston Public Health Commission directive supporting this aim, issued June 24, 2020.

Emerson College (the "College") submitted an application (the "Application") on August 10, 2020, detailing its plans for temporary occupancy of meeting space at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel at 50 Park Plaza in the Midtown Cultural Zoning District. The College intends to use Studios 1, 2, and 3 at the Avenue 34 event/meeting space in the Hotel as classroom space, exclusively for College student use, in an effort to assist the de-densification of existing on-campus classroom space. Instructors, professors, and teachers' aides will always be present when students are in the aforementioned space. All students will be required to wear masks within the meeting space. To be clear, the Park Plaza Hotel will not be utilized for the purposes of student housing.

The College is taking appropriate steps to meet with local Elected Officials, civic organizations, and institutional neighbors throughout the month of August in regard to its reopening plans, including plans to use the aforementioned property for classroom space.

Given the above, BPDA Staff deems the College's Application for occupying this space in compliance with the Guidance and the Boston Public Health Commission's directive. BPDA Staff recommends that you permit the change of use for the proposed facility for a period of six months, beginning August 24, 2020, with the option for the College to renew for a similar period should that be deemed necessary and in accordance with the Guidance at that time, as well as in accordance with up-to-date public health recommendations.

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Edward Carmody, Institutional Planner & Project Manager, at Edward.Carmody@Boston.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Teresa Polhemus".

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary