August 27, 2020

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

Re: Clarification re. Guidance for Permitting Off-campus Spaces for Temporary Institutional Uses: Northeastern University

Dear Commissioner Irish:

This letter serves as a clarification regarding the Guidance for Permitting Off-campus Spaces for Temporary Institutional Uses (“Recommendation”) dated August 5, 2020 issued by the BPDA (“Agency”) to Northeastern University (“University”) towards permitting non-institutional spaces to be used for the purposes of institutional residential de-densification.

The first paragraph on page 3 of the Recommendation states that “All units and rooms will be used as quarantine housing – for those students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and need to separate from others for a discrete period of time to see if they develop symptoms or become sick.” In reference to this point, I would like to clarify that the University will be pursuing two separate strategies for the purposes of isolation and quarantine.

Isolation will take place in on-campus housing that has been designated as “wellness space” by the University. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms will be moved immediately out of master-leased units or hotel rooms and relocated to on-campus wellness housing. A Northeastern case manager will be in touch with the student throughout the isolation period. Roommates who are a close contact and live in university housing may be asked by the Northeastern contact tracing team to quarantine in their own room if they live alone or in the COVID-19 Wellness Housing that Northeastern has set aside for isolation and quarantine.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any other questions related to the Recommendation.

Thank you,

Brian Golden, Director