



July 22, 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**
Suffolk University

Dear Commissioner Irish:

This letter serves as a recommendation to approve the temporary institutional uses for Suffolk University, as described herein, in accordance with the interdepartmental guidance (the "Guidance") towards permitting non-institutional spaces to be used for the purposes of institutional residential 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.

Suffolk University (the "University") submitted an application (the "Application") on July 14, 2020, detailing its plans for temporary occupancy of four Boston hotels. These include 162 rooms at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in the Midtown Cultural Zoning District; 156 rooms at the Wyndham Hotel in the Cambridge Street North Zoning District; 80 rooms at the Boxer Hotel in the Bulfinch Triangle Zoning District; and 75 rooms at the Hyatt Centric Hotel in the Boston Proper Zoning District. The mentioned hotels are all within walking distance of the University's campus. Each hotel room will be occupied by one student, and each room will have a private bathroom, furthering the goals of de-densification and social distancing within the on-campus residential setting. The University has secured the entirety of the Boxer Hotel and its own discrete floors at the other three hotels (ensuring no mixing with non-student hotel guests on any floor). All students will be given masks and required to wear them anytime they are outside of their individual rooms.

The University has also provided sufficient detail on scheduling of move-in/move-out procedures in compliance with public health recommendations on limiting the spread of COVID-19, as well as ongoing testing, tracing, and isolation protocols for all on-campus students, including those in traditional Suffolk University dorms as well as those occupying the mentioned hotels. The University will staff all hotels with Resident Advisors to manage student activities and wellbeing, as they would in traditional student housing. Finally, these temporary residential spaces will be subject to the University's housing agreement, governing student behavior and strict alcohol use policies. The University has been in touch with the predominant civic groups in the aforementioned areas to inform the community of their plans to occupy these hotels. The University intends to begin student move-in on August 20 for select students, with further move-in dates over the following two weeks.

Given the above, BPDA Staff deems the University's Application for occupying these spaces 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 facilities for a period of six months, beginning August 20, 2020, with the option for the University 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 617.918.4422.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Polhemus", is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Teresa Polhemus, Acting Director