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To: Mayor Bill Samaras and Members of the City Council

From: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

Shauna Forcier
Neighborhood Liaison

Date: October 17, 2019

Subject: Motion of 10/1/2019 by Mayor Samaras, “Req. City Mgr. Instruct The Proper Department To Provide An Update Regarding The Status Of The City’s Adopt-An-Island Program.”

The City of Lowell's Adopt an Island Program provides opportunities for companies, civic groups, institutions and individuals to adopt a traffic island or other public way green space and create attractive, welcoming "oases" throughout the City. Adopters agree to invest "sweat equity" to maintain an island, in return for which an Adopt an Island sign recognizing the island's adopter is installed by the City. Once adopted, sponsors agree to create a simple landscape plan, monitor their public space and provide continued maintenance.

Beginning in the Summer of 2018, City Manager’s office staff visited each island in the City. Photographs were taken and evaluations of plantings, signage, care and maintenance were noted in order to document each island, its location and current condition. Islands were again visited during the Summer and Fall of 2019 and were evaluated again.

If an island is found to be overgrown or in need of attention, the City’s Neighborhood Liaison, Shauna Forcier (who coordinates this program) will reach out to the stakeholder to see if they wish to continue maintaining their island. Over the last few months several individuals have indicated they would like to continue on and others declined. When someone declines or does not respond to the outreach efforts by the Neighborhood Liaison, the Parks Department is directed to remove the “Adopt an Island” sign and maintains the space until it becomes adopted by another party.

The City has had many inquiries about the program recently. When an interested party inquires with the City, the Neighborhood Liaison reaches out and discusses the program requirements, notes all of the islands that are currently available for adoption, and facilitates selection of a location.

Currently, the City has an inventory of over 120 total islands, of which about 20 available for adoption in different areas of the City.

Interested parties should contact the Neighborhood Liaison in the City Manager’s office at 978-674-1004 to discuss the program and inquire about an islands currently available for adoption.

