



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: September 8, 2020

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 8/25/20 BY COUNCILOR MERCIER
REQUEST CITY MANAGER PROVIDE A REPORT AND EXPLANATION
REGARDING WHAT MATERIAL IS GOING INTO THE JERSEY BARRIER
CONTAINMENT STRUCTURE AT THE NATIONAL PARK PARKING LOT ON
DUTTON STREET

The City of Lowell, through the Department of Planning and Development, continues to manage the construction of the new parking garage in the Hamilton Canal Innovation District (HCID). The parking garage is entering the final phase of construction and all parties are working together to reach a completion date as soon as possible so that cars may park in the facility, especially those individuals utilizing the Justice Center on Jackson Street.

The opening of the HCID garage requires the construction of an unfinished roadway section that will serve as the garage entrance. The construction of the road required a City permit with the National Park Service (NPS), which included a plan for storing the excess soil generated (known as stockpiling) from the road work. The decision was made to stockpile the soil because this option does not impact the construction timeline for the garage. In addition, because of the City's extensive work in the area around the garage and the NPS parking lots, there is no location to store the soil that will not interfere with either active construction or use of the NPS parking lot.

Thankfully, the City reached an agreement with NPS for soil storage on a modest portion of their existing parking lot. However, the stockpile is required to have protections from cars in the parking lot, which is why the stockpile has jersey barriers on the outside. In addition, to mitigate concerns about dust blowing in the wind and to comply with rules about soils not washing into waterways in the rain, the stockpile is surrounded by an impermeable black sheeting. The stockpile is not permanent and the soil will be removed after construction and planning initiatives in the immediate vicinity are completed.

CRT/ns

cc: Craig Thomas, Deputy Director DPD