

May 6, 2019

Honorable Bill Carpenter, Mayor
Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Brockton
45 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301

Mr. Mayor and Councilors:

In accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990, I hereby certify that it is my professional opinion, after an evaluation of all pertinent financial information reasonably available, that the financial resources and revenues of the City of Brockton are adequate to support the adoption of the Mayor's proposed budget for FY2020.

However, this certification is made with both caution and trepidation. The continued unpredictability of state funding, which makes up more than fifty percent (50%) of the city's total revenues, makes any long-term budgetary planning difficult. Therefore, this certification is made for FY2020 only, and I continue to offer the same words of restraint offered by former CFO John "Jay" Condon, to whom I also offer thanks and praise for his continued support and guidance. In last year's certification letter, Mr. Condon noted that, "I do not envision a public or political tolerance for the reduction of current city services, or for the level of decline in the cost of government employees...I do not predict major additions to the level of assistance from the state. Nor do I see a current appetite for major increases in those revenues under the city's control, such as property taxation or utility fees. However, some combination of these factors will be necessary if the city wishes to maintain its present service profile." That admonition continues to guide our outlook and planning for the future.

However, there are some positive trends that provide some potential for an optimistic outlook. The continued revival of the downtown will produce some positive developments in new growth in the coming years, and the additional revenues from meals tax revenue as a result of new restaurants in the downtown should provide an uptick in those revenues.

As we look forward toward the potential funding of a public safety complex, a renovation to the Brockton High School, and significant investment in our infrastructure in the coming years, I will be working closely with our finance team to develop a strategy for long-term funding of our capital needs with minimal impact on the city's taxpayers. Some of the capital proposals for FY2020 have been taken out of the operating budget request and will instead be included in a capital budget proposal which will be submitted to the Council later this year, in accordance with Section 2-298 of the Ordinances of the City of Brockton.

I am grateful for the opportunity to submit this, my first budget certification as Chief Financial Officer for the City of Brockton. I am honored to serve the people of my hometown and look forward to reviewing this spending plan and associated revenues with you in detail. I would like to express sincere thanks for the tireless efforts of my staff, most notably Budget Director Karen Preval, Financial Analyst Andrew Nocon, Junior Financial Analyst Tiffanilee Ciasullo, and Administrative Assistant Susan Thompson, who worked well beyond their normally prescribed hours to get this budget complete. It was a true team effort.

Sincerely,

Troy B.G. Clarkson, MPA
Chief Financial Officer