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January 27, 2020

Hon. Lee Kyriacou
and Members of the City Council
City of Beacon
One Municipal Plaza
Beacon, NY 12508

Re: Proposed Amendments to Historic District Law (Chapter 134)

Dear Mayor Kyriacou and Council members:

I understand that the Council will be workshopping the Historic District Law (Chapter 134) this evening. The Planning Board has recommended that the language of 134-6 A be amended to re-institute the requirement of certificates for interior spaces open to the public, but limit the requirement to buildings placed on the National Register. The Planning Board acknowledged that other buildings could be placed on the National Register in the future, and that the City would have the ability to urge that particular buildings be listed.

The Salvation Army takes no position on that amendment as to buildings other than churches, synagogues, or other houses of worship. To the extent that the suggested language would apply to those houses of worship, the proposed language does not resolve the concerns about regulation of internal religious practices by secular government. Churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship should be exempt from the requirement of a certificate of appropriateness for their internal spaces, whether they are on the National Register or not.

I would also like to clarify a point about the inception of the City's regulation of interior spaces. John Clarke has stated that "this [historic] law has been in place since '91 and has never been a problem." This statement is not wholly accurate. The City added the requirement of a Certificate of Appropriateness for internal spaces open to the public in April of 2018. This new language creates a particular concern to churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship. We believe this language is overly broad, and ask that it be refined as part of these amendments.



January 27, 2020

Page 2

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JL Van Tuyl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer L. Van Tuyl

cc: Anthony Ruggiero, City Manager
Nicholas Ward Willis, Esq.
Karen Mayer
John Clarke, AICP
Graeme Hepburn
William Null, Esq.