

SYLVIA LAW, P.C.

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**Please Send All Correspondence to New Bedford Address*

Re: 14 Oxford St. Concerns-Request for Continuance.

Greetings,

This office represents Jay Simmons. We solely and *exclusively* represent Mr. Simmons as it relates to his response to a certain item included on the Select Board's February 26, 2024 agenda.¹The specific item is listed as #4 under Section D. Action/Discussion, described as "**14 Oxford St. Concerns.**"² I am writing on behalf of Mr. Simmons to request that the item be addressed at a later date. The reason for seeking this accommodation primarily relates to the fact that my client is still grieving the recent passing of his father, Anthony Simmons.

Anthony, left us earlier this month at 100 years of age. He spent his final days at his home which also happens to be 14 Oxford St., with my client right by his side. My client devoted himself towards being his father's daily caretaker during his final years. During this time the two of them became each other's best friends and closest confidants. The humility and strength it took my client to serve his father as a daily caregiver naturally arose from their special bond. Anthony, a decorated Veteran of the U.S. Military, loved the Town of Fairhaven. As a longtime resident, Anthony could be described as a friendly and familiar face around town. He took great pride in his historic home at 14 Oxford St.. This is where he raised a family with his late beloved wife Elsie.

My client would like to use this correspondence as an opportunity to express his intention to work in unison and in good faith with town officials towards ameliorating any concerns relating to 14 Oxford St.. He is confident that a plan can be developed that would include a detailed description of work methods and well-defined/reasonable deadlines. This is a personal goal of Mr. Simmons' now that he has the time to finally focus on it. Our position is that both the Town and my client would benefit from such an arrangement. Ultimately, I am sure we all can agree that subjecting Jay Simmons to respond to public scrutiny related to this particular property, at this time would be a reckless and offensive use of the Town's time and resources.

Overall, we are specifically requesting an administrative continuance of the previously referenced agenda item. Accordingly, as an effort to avoid uncertainty, it would be greatly appreciated if my client through this office could be given assurance that the matter will definitely be rescheduled prior to the meeting. This office respectfully suggests that the item be moved to a meeting in mid to late April. This would allow my client enough time to further emotionally process the loss of his father and to engage in globally beneficial collaborative planning efforts with the town, while at the same time actively addressing these concerns (a task he has already begun and will continue to do).

I thank you in advance for considering my client's request. I truly hope we can come up with a respectful/dignified solution for his present situation. To discuss the matter further or provide any clarity please call my office at 508-717-7869.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nicholas R. Sylvia DATE: 2/25/24

Nicholas R. Sylvia, Esq

¹ The agenda received by the Town Clerk on February 22nd at 4:21pm. The scope of this office's representation at this time is entirely limited to the task of seeking a continuance of said agenda item.

² Notably, this agenda item was posted only four days before the hearing and is quite broad. This is troublesome from a notice standpoint especially when the item falls under a section where "action" could be taken by a government body.
