To: Michael Dissette, Chair, Community Preservation Committee

Cc: Chief Christopher LeClair, Newburyport Fire Department

From: Glenn Richards, Chair; Newburyport Historical Commission

Re: “Engine #3” - Newburyport Fire Department application for a CPA grant

Dear Mike,

I understand that the Newburyport Fire Department is applying for CPA funds in order to restore and/or maintain the historic fire engine in the city’s possession, “Engine 3.” Chief LeClair has asked the Newburyport Historical Commission to review the engine’s history and make a determination as to whether it is truly a "Historic Resource" for the city, as required by CPA law. The commission performed this review, and in our meeting on 13 February, 2020, approved a motion that I should compose and send you a letter stating our finding.

The City purchased this 1930 “Maxim” fire engine in 1938 and named it “Engine 3,” and it served the city without interruption for decades. Engine 3 was retired from service in 2013 but remains a treasured piece of our history, appearing in parades and for public education appearances. Notably, this truck is so significant to our firemen that it has been used to convey their final remains to the burial site, and there are requests from current or retired fire fighters to have this honor in the future. I don’t think I can imagine a more moving tribute as to how significant this engine is to these first responders, who dedicate themselves to serving and protecting the people and property of our city.

It is also worth noting that Newburyport is the original and only owner this engine has had since it was built, adding to its historic value and interest. The Fire Department has performed restorative maintenance to the mechanical systems, and the vehicle is registered, inspected, and road-worthy, but important and costly work is required for the body and cab, for which funds are requested.

The Newburyport Historical Commission is pleased to support this application for CPA funding to help restore and maintain this unique, tangible reminder of our city’s past.

Sincerely,

Glenn Richards, Chair.

Newburyport Historical Commission