

GREATER BOSTON
LEGAL SERVICES
...and justice for all

February 18, 2004

Roger Herzog
Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation
18 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02108

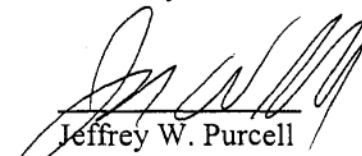
Dear Mr. Herzog:

This letter is to support the application of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation for funds to support tenant organizing work with the Charlesview Resident Organization and with private housing tenants in Allston Brighton who are organizing to force landlords and public officials to deal with the public health issue of beg bugs.

We have worked with the organizing staff of the Allston Brighton CDC over the years on preserving affordable housing and fighting displacement and have found them to be an effective partner in working with tenants and helping tenants to organize and act on their own behalf.

During the past five years we have worked with the Allston Brighton CDC to assist the residents of Brighton Village, where an existing Section 8 contract was converted to vouchers and initially the vouchers did not increase with the rent. GBLS worked with the tenant organization, and the Allston Brighton CDC and Vince O'Donnell of CEDAC, and Congressman Barney Frank and Congressman Michael Capuano to fix the problem. GBLS also worked closely with the Allston Brighton CDC in 1999 along with the tenants at the Waverly Apartments to secure additional affordability when the owner of those apartments prepaid his mortgage. We are currently working with the Charlesview Resident Organization and were originally contacted by the Allston Brighton CDC on behalf of the residents organization.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey W. Purcell
Housing attorney