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**Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer Selected to Attend Mayors' Institute on City Design in Austin, TX
December 12-14**

Framingham, MA – Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer will participate in the Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) in Austin, TX December 12-14 with seven other Mayors selected from the Eastern Seaboard: Hoboken, NJ; Lancaster, PA; Lansing, MI; Port Arthur, TX; Princeton, CT; Stamford, CT and Youngstown, OH. The MICD helps transform communities through design by preparing mayors to be the chief urban designers of their cities.

MICD organizes workshops where Mayors engage leading design and development experts to find solutions to critical planning and design challenges facing their cities. Sessions are organized around case study projects. Each mayor presents a project from his or her city and receives feedback from other mayors and design professionals. Mayor Spicer will present a case study on the Framingham Southside Gateway with the objective being to get feedback on revitalizing the former industrial district which includes the tract identified in the opportunity zone program.

"I am honored to have Framingham chosen to participate in this important project, which is fully funded by the MICD; my intention is to bring back fresh ideas for Framingham's vibrant Southside to supplement our current development plans," said Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer. "We've come a long way, but we've just scratched the surface as to how we can transform Framingham's Southside."

Every year, MICD plans and manages five sessions held throughout the country. Participation in each two-and-one-half-day session is limited to eight mayors, eight preeminent design and development professionals, and MICD partners. Many complex design topics have been addressed in recent years, including downtown and neighborhood revitalization, transportation planning, creative place making, district visioning and branding, main street and commercial corridor redevelopment, affordable housing, historic preservation, and sustainable development. The interchange between mayors and design professionals sparks lively debates, generates new ideas, and inspires creative thinking. The MICD is a leadership initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership the United States Conference of Mayors.

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