

DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

346 State Road · P.O. Box 4538 · Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

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*The mission of the DCRHA is to assist the 6 towns of Martha's Vineyard
with increasing the year-round housing opportunities for residents with low and moderate incomes.*

August 1, 2013

Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: Vineyard Haven Stop & Shop Expansion Proposal

Dear Commissioners,

The Dukes County Regional Housing Authority Board of Directors respectfully requests that your consideration of the Stop & Shop (S&S) expansion plans include particular attention paid to the impact on housing supply, demand and support. The proposed addition of 50 new jobs, welcome news in many regards, is also an opportunity to review existing use by S&S employees of housing assistance largely provided by the island towns and their taxpayers.

At any point in time over the last decade a minimum of six to twelve S&S employees have utilized affordable rentals offered by the DCRHA and other island housing organizations with another half dozen using rental assistance of one sort or another. These tenants are among the 70% of island S&S employees designated "part-time", earning in the vicinity of \$10.00 per hour with minimum benefits and subject to significant winter schedule cut-backs. The practical result is that many S&S employees also make application for Mass Health and other public benefits as well as additional "one-time housing assistance" needed to get through the winter season.

A better understanding by the MVC of current S&S employment on the island would be helpful in determining what the full housing impact of 50 new employees might be and what mitigation might be appropriate. Numbers on employees - full-time, part-time, seasonal, and visa workers - as well as current housing support provided by S&S and utilized by which workers could help illuminate reasonable S&S housing supports attendant to the expansion plan going forward.

Sincerely,

David Vigneault,
Executive Director

Affordable Rental & Homebuyer Assistance, Advocacy, Planning, & Referral

Vineyard Village, Greenough House, 45 Franklin St., Lagoon Pond, Lake Street & 118 Franklin St., Tisbury · Fisher Road, Edgartown
Lagoon Heights & Noyes Building, Oak Bluffs · Halcyon Way & Sepiessa Point, West Tisbury · Middle Line Road, Chilmark