

Dr. Walter V. Collier
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October 11, 2021

Alex Elvin
Development Regional Impact Coordinator
Martha's Vineyard Commission

Dear Mr. Elvin:

Since the early 1900s, Shearer Cottage has been a unique and vital part of the African American community here on the island. Not only has it provided a vacation spot to African Americans over the years, but has contributed to the rich cultural diversity and economy of Martha's Vineyard. Quite deservedly, it marks the beginning of the African American Heritage Trail from Oak Bluffs and throughout the island. I, therefore, fully support approval of the renovation of Shearer Cottage to preserve this island treasure.

I have been a year-round resident of Oak Bluffs for over 40 years and live a stone's throw from the Cottage, off of New York Avenue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Walter V. Collier, D.P.A.
Trustee, WMVY Radio
Co-Founder & Chair Emeritus
Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition