



March 15, 2021

**Re: Groom Construction**

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I provide this letter of reference for Groom Construction. It has been great partnering with them on developing several of our affordable housing projects but more specifically, I write to commend them on their special care and attention in support of our YouthBuild Program. Our YouthBuild program works with Youth ages 16-24 who have chosen an alternative career track primarily earning a High School Equivalency Diploma and Credentialed Construction training while committing to building affordable housing as a way of giving back to the community.

As some of our students represent the most marginalized and under served youth in our community, we are so grateful for the support that Groom has provided to our program. Through Groom's support, YouthBuild participants have been able to work on local housing projects to fulfill their hands on training requirements for NCCER construction credentialing. One project in particular was our Harbor Lafayette Development in which one of the buildings was a full gut rehab of 17 units of affordable housing prioritizing formerly homeless youth or youth aging out of Foster Care. The Groom team was very patient with our participants, helping them learn fundamentals of construction as well as completing a quality project. The Groom team continues to invest in our youth by attending our annual career round table events, educating our youth on careers in the trades and by providing employment opportunities to qualified graduates.

In 2019 YouthBuild North Shore began building out a new program space with limited resources and funding and we found ourselves in a crunch. We called upon Groom for some help with resources and they gladly sent one of their highly skilled tradesman to help us complete the build out. Additionally, he also became a positive role model for our youth to learn from. This was an invaluable one on one teaching opportunity for our youth and such an admirable level of support that we would have never expected from a partner. In 2020 NSCDC honored Groom as an Outstanding Community Partner at our Ribbon Cutting for our YouthBuild program space due to their invaluable support.

As President of the State Coalition of YouthBuild Programs for Massachusetts, I am grateful they have expanded opportunities to our affiliate members across the Commonwealth. As the Chief Program Officer of North Shore CDC, I highly recommend working with Groom Construction, look forward to working with them on future projects and will continue to engage them as a trusted community partner. They are an asset to any community and team. If you need any additional information I can be contacted via email at [Felicia@northshorecdc.org](mailto:Felicia@northshorecdc.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Felicia Pierce".

Felicia Pierce  
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North Shore Community Development Coalition invests in  
neighborhoods to create thriving communities