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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure
Office of Public Safety and Inspections
Architectural Access Board**

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CHARLES BORSTEL
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

THOMAS HOPKINS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2018

RE: Playground Mats, 34 Eldredge Street, Newton

On December 6, 2018, an Architectural Access Board (AAB) site visit was conducted at the above referenced premises. In attendance were the following representatives of the AAB: Thomas Hopkins, Executive Director and William Joyce, Compliance Officer. Also in attendance were Michael McGuffie and Phillip Hock representing the installer, and Stephanie Lapham, Recreation Manager for Newton Parks and Recreation.

This site visit was performed at the request of Mr. McGuffie to examine a proposed surface material for accessible playground routes. The site consists of a playground split into two parts by a paved walkway. One part consists of a swing set, and the other consists of several pieces of play equipment.





At each of these locations, the proposed surface material had been laid out to provide accessible routes to the play equipment or swings. The surface material in question is a sturdy rubber mat with a grate-like structure. It is secured to the ground both via emplaced pins or bolts and via nubs on the bottom of the material designed to create addition grip with the underlying wood chips. At the site, two different types of fasteners depending on the location. The play equipment side was secured with plastic stakes, while the swing set side was secured with stainless steel pins.



The mats are secured to one another by the regular placement of zip ties to ensure they provide a continuous surface between mats.

Director Hopkins traversed a majority of the proposed surface material at the site, and generally found it to be stable and easy to travel on. The swing set area, which had been installed in June had remained secured and in-place and showed no obvious signs of wear or degradation. A significant amount of detritus had built up near the edges of the mat, but it did not appear to affect the functionality due to the granted structure.



Mr. McGuffey indicated that the proposed material is relatively quick to install, the installation of the mats for the play equipment side having been installed the previous weekend, and relatively simple to repair and maintain. Ms. Lapham indicated the total cost for the mats had been roughly \$3,000. At the end of the visit, Mr. McGuffey provided a 6 1/2" x 6 1/2" square of the material as well as a plastic stake as a sample to display to the Board. Mr. Hopkins indicated the question as to whether this material complies with 521 CMR would be put before the Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on the 17th of December.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me via telephone at 617-727-0660.

Sincerely,

William Joyce

DRAFT