

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10/15/13

CONTACT: Linda Vacon 533-6498

VACON SUPPORTS ZONING CHANGE

Zoning Change in the Best Interest of Neighborhoods

Holyoke, MA... Today Holyoke Ward 5 City Councilor Linda Vacon announced that she is supporting both zone change petitions submitted by residents of Ward 5; the Whiting Farms and the Lower Westfield Road/Homestead Avenue parcels.

“I strongly believe that changing the Whiting Farms road from general business to industrial is in the best interest of the local neighborhoods. This rezoning will encourage quiet development with more regular hours of operation,” said Vacon.

When the original zoning changes were made for the Atlas Copco site 5 years ago (for Big Y) to allow retail, promises were made by O’Connell’s Development representatives. Unfortunately, those promises were broken and the lot was split.

As a result both Big Y and Wal-Mart looked at building in the area. Both projects have now fallen through. Now that Wal-Mart and Big Y are no longer going to build on the sites, Vacon believes it is time to change the zoning.

“Due to previous zoning changes, there was no vote coming before the City Council. Moving forward, we can make the zone changes,” said Vacon.

“We can attract businesses that will not be as disruptive to the neighborhood,” said Vacon. “While I am committed to keeping Holyoke open for business, I do realize it is a delicate balance between the residents and employers that create jobs.

###