



Dear Friend,

We have exciting news to share with you regarding the Garden of Peace, A Memorial to Victims of Homicide (The Garden).

The Governor has signed into law a bill, filed on behalf of the Garden of Peace and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA), that transfers the administration and maintenance of the Garden to the Victim and Witness Assistance Board/MOVA.

The Garden is a private non-profit, was incorporated in 2001 to build and maintain a public memorial to Massachusetts victims of homicide. The founders of the Garden raised private funds to build the Garden and it was dedicated on the plaza behind what is now 100 Cambridge Street in Boston in September 2004. It has been maintained since that time by a dedicated group of volunteers who have remained committed to the purpose and mission of the Garden.

The Garden is a meaningful memorial honoring those tragically lost to homicide. Families whose loved ones are memorialized here have found peace and solace in visiting the Garden, which also serves as a living memorial to the cost of violence in our community.

In an effort to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the Garden, the Board of Directors and founding members of the Garden identified MOVA as a logical home for the Garden's administration. Oversight and management by a volunteer board created challenges to ensuring the Garden meeting its full potential over time. MOVA was established as an independent state agency over 30 years ago to support and empower victims and witnesses of crime in Massachusetts. MOVA has existing staff resources to provide oversight of the Garden, support families connected to it, and conduct outreach and other activities intended to raise awareness of the impact of violence on Massachusetts. The newly signed legislation allows for the current Garden Board to dissolve and administrative oversight to be transferred to MOVA. Private donations to support Garden activities, infrastructure, and the costs of engraving for families who cannot afford it can continue to be collected by MOVA through a dedicated trust established by the legislation.

Over the coming months, MOVA and the Garden Board will work together to ensure a seamless transition for families and stakeholders. We have begun planning the annual September honor program taking place on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and will send out the details as they become finalized. MOVA has been a committed partner to the Garden since the memorial's inception and remains committed to fulfilling its mission in the years to come. If you have any questions in the coming months

about the transition of the Garden over the coming months, please continue to contact the Garden Board at 617-523-0402 or via email at [info@gardenofpeacememorial.org](mailto:info@gardenofpeacememorial.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leah C. Micalizzi".

Leah C. Micalizzi

GARDEN OF PEACE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liam T. Lowney".

Liam T. Lowney

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance