



Cape Cod Economic Development Council

3225 Main Street ↗ Barnstable, MA 02630

TO: Barnstable County Commissioners
FROM: Felicia Penn, Chair, Cape Cod Economic Development Council (CCEDC)
RE: Automatic Gifting to Arts Foundation of Cape Cod
Date: February 1, 2015

As you are aware, the CCEDC serves in the capacity of economic development advisors to the County Commissioners. In this role, we would like to direct your attention to the fact that each year, the County Commissioners directly “gift” \$10,000 of Cape & Island License Plate funds to the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod, as it is the “official designated county arts organization”.

I use the word “gift” because as far as the CCEDC can determine, there is no accountability provided to the County for the \$10,000 investment, which is of concern to us. With the exception of paying our share of Cape & Island License Plate marketing expenses and for the maintenance of the Rest Area between exits 6 & 7, all funds dispensed from the Cape & Islands License Plate Special Fund are provided as grants.

Grants necessitate accountability, as we require an interim report (usually 6 months) and an annual report (usually 12 months from the date of issue). Many times, we even request a personal appearance and report to the board. The purpose of these reports is to provide, on your behalf, evaluations of the effectiveness of the County’s investment. Grant projects and their management organizations that ultimately do not accomplish their goals, or do not expend the funds for the reasons originally intended are either required to make restitution, or are placed on our “blacklist” so that future funding will not occur. Accountability is essential when working with a public resource.

The CCEDC strongly recommends that the AFCC be required to apply for license plate funds through the grant process, as do all other not-for-profit organizations on Cape Cod.

Should the County Commissioners choose to continue to automatically gift funds to the AFCC, as your advisory board, we respectfully recommend that you require at least minimum reporting (six months and annually) so that the County is assured these funds are being properly accounted for and expended toward the purpose of promoting economic development on Cape Cod.