



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS AND DEDICATIONS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 08, 2026

TIME: 6:33 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DEREK BAPTISTE, CHAIR;
JOSEPH LOPES; SHAWN OLIVER; JAMES ROY**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS SHANE BURGO; LEO
CHOQUETTE**

Councillor Baptiste called the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications meeting to order, took attendance, and explained that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed.

COMMUNICATION, Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, submitting a Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program Application for a bench and plaque to be located along the new pathway on Brownell Avenue, at the foot of Sheldon Street, in honor of FREDDIE MELLO. (Matter ID #1230) (Referred – July 16, 2026.)

The Chair announced that the request had been withdrawn by the petitioners, David and Pamela Mello.

On motion by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Roy, the Committee VOTED: to recommend that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program Application for a bench and plaque to be located along the new pathway on Brownell Avenue, at the foot of Sheldon Street, in honor of FREDDIE MELLO.

COMMUNICATION, Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, submitting a Memorial Park Bench & Tree Dedication Program Application for a bench and plaque to be located at Fort Taber, replacing an existing bench, in memory of ARTHUR C. BURTON, JR. (Matter ID #1323) (Referred – August 25, 2026)

The Chair recognized Charlene Burton, 318 Park Street, New Bedford, who explained that this request was to honor her brother, Arthur C. Burton who loved to fish by Fort Taber Park where there is a bench currently in place. This new bench would be erected in her brother’s memory, replacing the existing bench.

Councillor Baptiste spoke in favor of the request reminiscing about knowing Mr. Arthur Burton who lived in the neighborhood he grew up in.

On motion by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Roy, the Committee VOTED: to recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the Memorial Park Bench & Tree Dedication Program Application for a bench and plaque to be located at Fort Taber, replacing an existing bench, in memory of ARTHUR C. BURTON, JR.

COMMUNICATION, Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, submitting a Memorial Park Bench & Tree Dedication Program Application for a bench and plaque to be located at the corner of Buttonwood Street and Lake Street, to the right of the Italian American Memorial, in memory of CARL NATHO. (Matter ID # 1324) (Referred – August 25, 2026)

The Chair recognized Angela Natho, 38 Buttonwood Street, New Bedford, who said she would like to have a bench erected in her husband, Carl Natho's memory. She gave a summary of her husband and his activities which led to friends placing a tree in his memory at Buttonwood Park. It is her hope to add a bench to the area.

Councillor Joseph Lopes was present and was recognized by the Chair. Councillor Lopes spoke of his long relationship with the Natho family and of his support for the request.

On motion by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Roy, the Committee VOTED: to recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the Memorial Park Bench & Tree Dedication Program Application for a bench and plaque to be located at the corner of Buttonwood Street and Lake Street, to the right of the Italian American Memorial, in memory of CARL NATHO.

This Item was not read.

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications meet with Rosemary Gill, President & CEO of the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, to discuss a portrait tribute of Armand Marchand and *George Charbonneau*, founders of the New Bedford Festival Theatre and former New Bedford High School Drama Club teacher; this portrait would hang in the entrance lobby of the Zeiterion Theater as a tribute to a man who gave it all to the art of the theater through his productions and to his legacy in the City of New Bedford. (Matter ID #1256) (Referred, as Amended – July 17, 2025.) (September 10, 2025 – tabled)

On motion by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Roy, the Committee VOTED: to recommend that the City Council take “**NO FURTHER ACTION**” on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications meet with Rosemary Gill, President & CEO of the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, to discuss a portrait tribute of Armand Marchand and *George Charbonneau*, founders of the New Bedford Festival Theatre and former New Bedford High School Drama Club teacher; this portrait would hang in the entrance lobby of the Zeiterion Theater as a tribute to a man who gave it all to the art of the theater through his productions and to his legacy in the City of New Bedford.

Councillor Roy made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Oliver.

This meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.
Clerk of Committees