

CELEBRATION MEETING
Chambers of the City Council
Tuesday, May 10, 2022

CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building
7:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Council President Abreu, Councillors Baptiste, Burgo, Carney, Giesta, Gomes, Lima, Markey, Morad and Pereira.

LATE: No One.

ABSENT: Councillor Dunn.

Council President Abreu called the meeting to order and presided.

Councillor Pereira led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

COMMUNICATION, Council President Abreu, to City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council Dennis W. Farias, calling a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL for TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SECOND FLOOR OF CITY HALL, for the celebration and awarding of official City Council Citations and Resolutions.

Received and Placed on File. (#0757)

CITATIONS, Councillors Gomes and Morad, honoring PARAMEDIC IVAN BRODY, PARAMEDIC JACK HARRISON and PARAMEDIC JACOB HUGHES, in recognition of their heroic and lifesaving resuscitation efforts of a three-month-old baby boy in cardiac arrest; and further with heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to the safety of the citizens of the City of New Bedford.

Adopted. (#0758)

CITATIONS, Councillors Gomes and Morad, honoring PARAMEDIC MICHAEL BOTELHO, PARAMEDIC IVAN BRODY, EMT SARA REIS and PARAMEDIC ERIN SOUZA, in recognition of their heroic and lifesaving rescue efforts of a 57-year-old male resident who collapsed while out on his daily run; and further with heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to the safety of the citizens of the City of New Bedford.

Adopted. (#0759)

CITATIONS, Councillors Gomes and Morad, honoring EMT RYAN NOONAN, PARAMEDIC TROY SELLEY, PARAMEDIC GLEN STYS and PARAMEDIC WILLIAM SULLIVAN, in recognition of your heroic and lifesaving rescue efforts of a 21-year-old male resident found unresponsive in his vehicle; and further with heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to the safety of the citizens of the City of New Bedford.

Adopted. (#0760)

CITATIONS, Councillors Gomes and Morad, honoring PARAMEDIC RYAN GRASELA, EMT PATRICK LEAVER and PARAMEDIC ANTHONY MCCAULEY, in recognition of your heroic and lifesaving rescue efforts of a 70-year-old male who collapsed and experienced a heart attack in the parking lot at Market Basket; and further with heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to the safety of the citizens of the City of New Bedford.

Adopted. (#0761)

The following resolution was presented by Councillors Gomes and Morad to Mark D. McGraw.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 10, 2022

**RESOLUTION HONORING MARK D. MCGRAW ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**

WHEREAS, Mark McGraw, a native of Ithaca, New York, was born in November 1962, is the son of Jack and Jacqueline McGraw, was married in March 1990 to his devoted wife Paula and is the proud father to their quadruplets Andrew, Patrick, Michael and Kate, and grandfather to his beloved one year old granddaughter Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, Because of his father's dedicated career a United States FBI Agent, Mark and his family resided in several cities, finally settling in New Bedford, where in 1981 Mark graduated from Bishop Stang High School, joined and served in the United States Army until his discharge in 1988, returned home and enrolled in and graduated in 2000 as a Registered Nurse from Bristol Community College; and

WHEREAS, While attending Bristol Community College Mark McGraw successfully completed an Emergency Medical Training program and was hired by the City of New Bedford's Emergency Medical Services Department in 1989 as a part time Intermittent EMT, obtaining full time status in November 1990, and continuing to advance his career as a member of the Department by becoming a Paramedic in 2003 and Field Supervisor from 2006 until February 2009 when because of budgetary cutbacks as a result of the nationwide recession he was laid off the job along with his fellow Field Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Thankfully, in July 2009, Mark McGraw was rehired by the City of New Bedford, when then Mayor Scott Lang offered the position of Director of the Emergency Medical Services Department to Mark McGraw who immediately began the process of rebuilding and expanding the department, hiring additional EMT's and Paramedics and encouraging them through education to advance their careers in the field of Emergency Medical Services; and

WHEREAS, Since his appointment as Director, Mark McGraw has overseen the professional operation of the City of New Bedford's Emergency Medical Services division, has developed and maintained various City emergency operation plans; instituted the Special Response Team in conjunction with the New Bedford Police Department to respond to high risk emergency situations such as the tragedy at the Foxy Lady, has strengthened the department's working relationship with surrounding towns, private ambulance services and local medical providers, partnered with the South Coast Hospital Group to modernize and expand communication services, all with the goal of providing the best possible emergency care to patients at the point of engagement and in route to the hospital emergency room; and

WHEREAS, The City of New Bedford was so fortunate to have Mark McGraw at the helm in the last two years of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, where his years of dedication and experience allowed him to lead the department through this critical time, keep his employees and their families safe while continuing to deliver professional and compassionate Emergency Medical Services to the City's residents; and

WHEREAS, The City and people of New Bedford have been so blessed by the fact that Mark McGraw has, for 32 years, dedicated himself to the community where he leaves behind the great legacy of having changed the image of the City's Emergency Medical Services Division to well-equipped and professional operation staffed by dedicated, talented and hardworking employees who, over the years, have become an extended family to him; and

WHEREAS, On March 05, 2022, after more than thirty-two years of distinguished service to the City of New Bedford, it is with great sadness, but also the utmost respect and appreciation, that his loving family, colleagues and fellow employees wish Director Mark McGraw the very best as he embarks on the next phase of his amazing life journey:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors **MARK D. MCGRAW ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**, thanks him for his dedicated service to our City and its Citizens and expresses their best wishes for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Adopted.

(#0762)

CITATION, Councillors Dunn, Morad and Pereira, honoring MICHAEL LEWIS, in recognition of being ranked Number 1 Seed in the United States as a Taekwondo Red Belt, at the young age of 14, attained the rank of Black Belt in Taekwondo and was selected in 2021 to train with the Olympic National Team.

Adopted.

(#0763)

CITATION, Councillor Morad, honoring NEW BEDFORD CABLE ACCESS, in recognition of being their being named the 2021 Overall Excellence Award winner by the National Alliance for Community Media for outstanding community media production and creative and professional programming for New Bedford residents.

Adopted. (#0764)

CITATIONS, Councillor Morad, honoring CHARLENE ROCHA ARRUDA, MATTHEW ARRUDA and KEVIN BELLI, NEW BEDFORD CABLE ACCESS, in recognition of winning the 2021 First Place Award and outstanding recognition from the Alliance for Community Media in the category of General Talk Show.

Adopted. (#0765)

CITATIONS, Councillor Morad, honoring DANA DEBARROS and SUZANNE RICHARD, in recognition of their winning the 2021 First Place Award and outstanding recognition from the Alliance for Community Media in the category of School and Educational Programming.

Adopted. (#0766)

CITATIONS, Councillor Morad, honoring JAMES MARSHALL and SUZANNE RICHARD, in recognition of their winning the 2021 First Place Award and outstanding recognition from the Alliance for Community Media in the category of the documentary – “A Cranberry Harvest”.

Adopted. (#0767)

CITATION, Councillors Baptiste and Morad, honoring OLD BEDFORD VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, in recognition of their 25th Anniversary Celebration and with sincere appreciation for the commitment to advancing environmental and social justice issues in the Greater New Bedford community.

Adopted. (#0768)

CITATION, Councillor Lima, honoring LYNN COISH, in recognition of her many years of Volunteerism and Dedicated Service to Operation Clean Sweep.

Adopted. (#0769)

CITATIONS, Councillors Pereira and Gomes, honoring New Bedford Police Officers DAVID WALLANT, JENNY ROMAN, TREVOR BETTENCOURT and ROBERT GREEN, in recognition of their outstanding bravery in the line of duty at the 34 Sidney Street house fire.

Adopted. (#0770)

The following resolution will be presented by Councillor Gomes to Cynthia Torres.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 10, 2022

**RESOLUTION HONORING CYNTHIA TORRES 2021 -2022
STANDARD-TIMES GIRLS' SWIMMER OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Cynthia Torres, was selected as the overall High Point scorer for the New Bedford High School Girls' Swim Team; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Torres was the driving force behind the Whalers' run to an undefeated Southeastern Conference regular season Championship and Conference Title; and

WHEREAS, At the South Sectional meet, Cynthia Torres swam a 26.52 to place 12th in the 50 meter freestyle and 58.06 to take 14th place in the 100 meter freestyle; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Torres also anchored the 200 and 400 meter Freestyle relays at both the South Sectional meet and in the Division 1 State Championship; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Torres won the 50 and 100 meter freestyle events to score the team high of 40 points at the Southeastern Conference meet, which helped the New Bedford Whalers to take First Place as a team; and

WHEREAS, In the words of coach Tim Curry, "Cynthia Torres is a great racer and competitor who always does what it takes in practice to become better"; and

WHEREAS, During the last regular season meet, Cynthia Torres qualified to compete in the 100 meter freestyle event, at the SEC Championship meet; and

WHEREAS, Winning the Conference Title as a team was also gratifying for Cynthia Torres, the Team's Co-Captain in her Junior Year, stating "it was a great season. We were expecting to have a good team, and it turned out to be great, the connection we had on our team made winning so much more exciting"; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Torres said she thrives off the individual focus in swimming, her older sister, Anna played volleyball at New Bedford High School, graduating in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Sixteen year old Cynthia Torres, was born in Brazil and now lives in New Bedford with her mother Vanessa; Cynthia also plays Field Hockey for New Bedford High School, is committed to making her mother and family back in Brazil proud of her accomplishments, and will continue reaching for nothing less than the stars:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That New Bedford City Council Recognizes **CYNTHIA TORRES - 2021-2022 STANDARD-TIMES GIRLS' SWIMMER OF THE YEAR**, and wishes her continued success as she continues to reach for the stars.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date.

(#0771)

The following resolution was presented by Councillors Pereira, Morad and Baptiste to Your Theatre, Inc.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 10, 2022

**RESOLUTION HONORING YOUR THEATRE, INC.,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, The origin of Your Theatre, Inc., began in September of 1946, when Mary A. Smith, a professional actress and dedicated teacher, founded the community-based nonprofit theatre as a means to enhance the cultural life of the Greater New Bedford Community, and to develop and encourage dramatic art, while entertaining local audiences; and

WHEREAS, From the Theatre's first production of The Barretts of Wimpole Street in 1947, staged at the Fairhaven Town Hall, to this year's 75th Season opening production of Jeffrey Hatcher's The Viewings, Your Theatre, Inc., has for seventy-five years been at center stage, entertaining generations of South Coast audiences; and

WHEREAS, In the early years, Your Theatre, Inc., performed at a variety of venues such as the Fairhaven Town Hall, the County Street New Bedford High School Auditorium, Kenyon-Campbell School, Keith Junior High and the Parker Street Mini Theatre, while members of the theatre company fostered the dream of a building they could call their own; and

WHEREAS, In the spring of 1961, through the generosity of Rudolph Brenneke, Your Theater, Inc., rented the building at the rear of 100 Parker Street, which was converted to a small theatre and became the Theatre's home for the next 18 years, as the theatre company staged over 50 productions ranging in diversity of theme and securing Your Theatre's reputation as a treasure for live theatre in the Greater New Bedford area; and

WHEREAS, In September 1979, in conjunction with the City of New Bedford, Your Theatre Inc., assumed occupancy of the New Bedford Textile School, located at 71 Maxfield Street, and renovated the facility into the most fully equipped community theatre of its kind in Southeastern Massachusetts, building an 88 seat main theatre and a 44 seat mini-theatre, and allowing the theater company to expand and diversify operations to a variety of new and exciting productions; and

WHEREAS, Your Theatre, Inc., remained at the Maxfield Street location, until November 2004, when the Theatre moved to the present location at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, where Your Theater has hosted over 75 productions and continues the original mission of providing diversity and excellence in theatre, priding itself on being the most professional, nonprofessional theatre group in the area, and inviting new volunteers to join this small, fiercely independent theatre company, which provides numerous opportunities for experienced actors and newcomers, both on stage and off; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, in conjunction with WHALE, Your Theater, Inc., took the first steps in planning to make the long awaited dream of owning own their own state of the art theater facility come true, acquiring the former First Baptist Church on William Street and beginning a multi-year \$3 Million dollar construction project to renovate the building to be the new home of the Steeple Playhouse Performing Arts Center, where the theatre will be able to once again expand theatrical productions and continue to provide the greater New Bedford community with an outstanding community theatre company; and

WHEREAS, After almost eight years of fund raising, grant writing, exhaustive planning, permitting and renovation work, Your Theater Inc., looks forward with excitement and anticipation to the December 2022 celebration and ribbon cutting of the Steeple Playhouse Performing Arts Center and another 75+ years of outstanding community theatre productions:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby commends and congratulates **YOUR THEATRE, INC.**, a true treasure of community theatre, and all the volunteers throughout the past 75 years for their commitment and dedication to local community theatre and the performing arts, eagerly anticipates the opening of the new theatre facility and the continuation of outstanding theatrical productions for many years to come.

Adopted.

(#0772)

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

DENNIS W. FARIAS, CITY CLERK/
CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL