



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

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IN COOPERATION WITH
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June 13, 2017

Dear Community Partner:

We, the members of the New Bedford Human Relations Commission, are coordinating a rally in front of City Hall to be held on Thursday June 29, 2017, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. This rally will include speaking segments by public officials, community leaders, and everyday citizens. The rally will also include musical selections, spoken word, and the beautiful faces of our diverse community. Many individuals will be waving signs with positive messages in order to promote unity, respect, and acceptance of one another. These qualities are seemingly diminishing in our world and in our local communities.

The HRC has learned that some citizens have been victims of random attacks for no reason other than their ethnicity or class. We, along with various partners, are taking a proactive approach in joining together to make a collective statement that we dispel hate of any kind in the City of New Bedford. We also want to encourage citizens to know where they can go to report random attacks of violence and to not be silent regarding these attacks.

As stated in the City Ordinance, Article IX, Section 2-130:

The purpose of the Human Relations Commission is to promote mutual understanding and respect in our community; and to encourage and assure equality of opportunity for all people of the City without regard to their race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, ancestry, or disability.

Displays of one's personal bias through swastikas, harmful words, or random attacks are not welcome in our city. It is with that authority that we are encouraging the community at large to come together in a positive way. That is the New Bedford Way.

We, the Human Relations Commission, are inviting your organization to join us, along with other organizations, which include the Administration of the City of New Bedford, the City of New Bedford Police Department, We Won't Go Back, Neighborhoods United, and others at this important Rally. Please bring your signs with a positive message and join us as we display the unity that we all want to share and the peace we would like to have within our community. If you support this effort and want the name of your organization to be listed under the supporters, please reply back with "Count Us In."

Additionally, there will be light refreshments and discussions, until 8PM, at the Labor Council, 560 Pleasant St. We Won't Go Back and the HRC want to encourage people to share their thoughts about what we can do collectively to counteract the bigotry and hatred that we've seen.

In Unity,

Stella

Estella Rebeiro, Chairwoman
City of New Bedford Human Relations Commission