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City of New Bedford  
Jon Mitchell, Mayor

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For Immediate Release

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### ***New Bedford's Front Street Plaza to be Named for Former Mayor Jack Markey***

*5PM on Thursday, May 12, 2016*

*Front Street Plaza in Downtown New Bedford (at the corner of Front and Union Streets)*

**New Bedford, Massachusetts-** The public is invited to join Mayor Jon Mitchell and members of the New Bedford City Council for a brief ceremony at 5PM on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> to name the City-owned plaza on Front Street (at the corner of Front and Union Streets) for former New Bedford Mayor Jack Markey. City officials unanimously agreed to name the Plaza for Mayor Markey in recognition of his public service as Mayor of the City of New Bedford and for serving as the catalyst for the thriving Downtown New Bedford Historic District.

The Front Street Plaza is located in the heart of the thriving Downtown New Bedford Historic District. In 1974, Mayor Markey made the bold decision to infuse \$3.5 million of federal community development funds in New Bedford's dilapidated historic district. His decision to invest in preservation proved to be a wise one. The Community Development Block Grant funds were used to bury utility lines, resurface the streets with cobblestone and the sidewalks with slate, install historic street lights, enhance landscaping, relocate the Andrew Robeson House and restore the Rodman Candleworks, Sundial and Double Bank buildings.

In a letter to the City Council proposing that the plaza be named for Markey, Mayor Jon Mitchell wrote, "During his tenure as Mayor, Jack Markey's leadership advanced the City of New Bedford and protected its interests in countless ways that our community still benefits from today. Mayor Markey's investment in preservation of the Downtown New Bedford Historic District is a legacy that every mayoral administration since has enhanced and built upon."

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