

CELEBRATION MEETING
Chambers of the City Council
Thursday, May 16, 2019

CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building
7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Council President Morad, Councillors Abreu, Carney, Giesta, Lima, Lopes, and Markey.
LATE: No One
ABSENT: Councillors Coelho, Dunn, Gomes and Rebeiro.

Council President Linda M. Morad called the meeting to order and presided.

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

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Coelho, to Members of the City Council, notifying that she will be absent from the Special Celebration Meeting of the City Council on Thursday, May 16, 2019, due to a prior commitment.
Received and Placed on file. (#0897)

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Rebeiro, to Members of the City Council, notifying that she will be absent from the Special Celebration Meeting of the City Council on Thursday, May 16, 2019, due to a prior commitment.
Received and Placed on file. (#0898)

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Dunn, to Members of the City Council, notifying that he will be absent from the Special Celebration Meeting of the City Council on Thursday, May 16, 2019, due to a business conflict.
Received and Placed on file. (#0899)

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Gomes, to Members of the City Council, notifying that he will be absent from the Special Celebration Meeting of the City Council on Thursday, May 16, 2019, due to a prior commitment.
Received and Placed on file. (#0900)

COMMUNICATION, Council President Morad, to City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council Dennis W. Farias, calling a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL for THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019, 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. (#0901)

CITATIONS, Councillor Abreu, honoring NOAH DIGREGORIO, MARSHALL MCCARTY, LOGAN MENARD, LUCAS VALENTE, NATHANIEL RODRIGUEZ, SYLIS SMITH, ANDREW MCCARTY and PAUL MOTA, in recognition of their achieving the "Arrow of Light" Award from the Cub Scouts Pack 24 of New Bedford, Massachusetts.
Adopted. (#0902)

CITATION, Councillor Abreu, honoring DAWN LOPES, in recognition of her being selected as the 2019 Bristol Community College Class Valedictorian, 52nd Commencement. COMMUNICATION, Council President Morad, to City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council Dennis W. Farias, calling a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL for THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019, 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.
Adopted. (#0903)

CITATION, Councillor Abreu, honoring MICHAEL GRASELA, in recognition of his achieving the New Bedford resident first place finish in the 2019 and the 42nd New Bedford Half-Marathon with a time of 1:18:08.
Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (#0904)

CITATION, Councillor Markey and Council President Morad, honoring ALFERES REALTY, INC., in recognition of their family owned agency's 25th Anniversary Celebration and with our sincere thanks for their steadfast commitment in making Home Ownership a reality for so many in the Greater New Bedford Area.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (#0905)

The following resolution was presented by, Councillors Abreu, Giesta, Lima, Lopes, Markey, and Council President Morad.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 16, 2019

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOO
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, On April 20, 1894, the West End Park was named Buttonwood, shortly thereafter, a menagerie was started at Buttonwood and the Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford, Massachusetts was established, today it is the 12th oldest zoo in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Buttonwood Park Zoo is owned and operated by the City of New Bedford and features a variety of animals native to Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South Americas and is dedicated to wildlife conservation and to providing excellent care for animals as well as educating the public; and

WHEREAS, The idea of a City Zoo was originally for exhibition and entertainment, the focus today is on animal welfare, education, conservation and the protection of endangered species, the Buttonwood Park Zoo is in the process of presenting more than 50 endangered and threatened species in habitats mirroring their natural environments; and

WHEREAS, The Buttonwood Park Zoo's focus is to become a regional leader in environmental science education, developing the highest standards of animal care and welfare, a community model for sustainable practices, and is involved in a number of conservation and research projects of regional, national and international scope, protecting threatened and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, The Buttonwood Park Zoo has met the high standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for exhibit quality, animal care, educational programs and conservation projects and has been approved for four consecutive five-year accreditations by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums; and

WHEREAS, In 1984 the present Buttonwood Park Zoological Society (BPZS) was formed, the Society is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization that supports the zoo by providing funding for educational programming, managing its membership program, concessions, fundraising events and organizing family focused occasions for the community, such as Boo at the Zoo, Feast in the Wild, Party for the Planet and ZooCrew; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Buttonwood Park Zoo closed to the public for a major redesign and reconstruction, a Zoo Master Plan was completed and in 2000, a grand opening of the new Zoo was held with a "Berkshires to the Sea" theme, housing mostly endangered regional wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Also, in 2000, a large number of today's residents arrived for the re-opening, including black bears Amy, Toby and Ursula and the harbor seal, Yellow, who gave birth to Blue in 2003; and

WHEREAS, The Buttonwood Park Zoo's oldest, most famous residents, Asian elephants Emily and Ruth, live in a newly expanded elephant habitat, with Ruth enjoying the status of currently being the third oldest elephant in captivity; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Buttonwood Park Zoo is one the most frequently visited cultural attractions in Southeastern Massachusetts, with an annual attendance of approximately 175,000 guests, a seven acre zoo which has been rightly recognized as "One of the finest small zoos in the United States", and continues to develop dynamic educational programs and animal habitats to allow zoo guests access to culture and history:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors **THE BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY**, applauds their high standards of animal care, their focus on conservation and their overall contribution to the City and extends best wishes for continued success in the years to come as a national leader in protecting the welfare of endangered species.

Adopted. (#0906)

The following resolution was presented by Councillor Gomes.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 16, 2019

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 8TH, AS WORLD OCEANS DAY

WHEREAS, World Oceans Day (June 8th) offers an invitation to remember the very beginnings of life on Earth, along with the many benefits we presently enjoy and the ongoing critical role of the oceans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, This day has been celebrated internationally ever since 1992 and was officially declared in 2009, by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day,"; and

WHEREAS, This international celebration has grown from a ripple into a wave of awareness connecting the importance of our oceans to the lands we live on, creating an opportunity to better understand our connection to fresh and salt water environments and what we can do to protect and keep waterways and marine environments healthy and productive; and

WHEREAS, English explorer Bartholomew Gosnold first investigated New Bedford's harbor on May 31, 1602, New Bedford was originally part of Dartmouth which the General Court of Plymouth County incorporated on June 8, 1664, New Bedford's town charter was granted in 1787, and the City of New Bedford was incorporated in 1847, for more than 400 years New Bedford's seafaring port has played a significant part in the development and growth of America; and

WHEREAS, New Bedford's strong maritime history creates a natural connection to and concern for the livelihood of our oceans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The recognition and proclamation of World Oceans Day will help encourage many interests and sectors to work together, advancing practical and proven methods to protect our oceans:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby recognizes and proclaims **JUNE 8th** as **WORLD OCEANS DAY**, and celebrates it as a means to foster support for local, national, and global efforts which further awareness of our oceans, their sustainable development and stewardship, and the marine life initiatives that help secure the Oceans viability for our common future.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (0907)

CITATION, Councillor Lopes, honoring MEGHAN SILVIA, Standard-Times 2018 SouthCoast Teacher of the Year, in recognition of her being a great teacher who goes above and beyond her teaching duties to help support her students. (TABLED – March 21, 2019.)

TABLED – March 21, 2019.

Removed from the Table and Adopted. (0521)

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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