

SPECIAL MEETING
Chambers of the City Council
Thursday, January 19, 2017

CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Council President Morad, Councillors Abreu, Bousquet, Carney, Coelho, Lopes, Martins, Oliveira, and Winterson.

LATE: No One

ABSENT: Councillor Gomes

Council President Lopes called the meeting to order and presided.

Councilor Carney led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Gomes , to Members of the City Council, informing that he will be absent for the Special City Council Celebration Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017, due to a family commitment.

Received and Placed on File. (#0120)

CITATION, Councillors Bousquet and Morad, honoring PAYTON WILDRICK, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, in recognition of her being selected to represent Massachusetts in the Presidential Career Technical Education Scholar Awards Competition – Keep Up the Good Work Academically, in Your Career Tech and Sporting Endeavors - Congratulations.

Adopted. (#0121)

CITATIONS, Councillor Martins, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad and Bousquet, honoring JOE LANGLOIS, President, Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum and SUZANNE RICHARD, Chief Videographer, New Bedford Cable Network, in recognition of their winning 2nd Place in the “Historical Documentary” Category for an episode of “Heroes Among Us”, featuring a profile of Matthew Goulet, a Sergeant in the United States Marines who served during the Second World War.

Adopted. (#0122)

CITATION, Councillor Martins, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad and Bousquet, honoring NEW BEDFORD CABLE NETWORK, in recognition of their winning third place in the School/Educational Programming Category for “Homework Helpers” at the Alliance for Community Media Northeast region Video Festival.

Adopted. (#0123)

CITATION, Councillor Martins, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad and Bousquet, honoring MARCIA GUY, in recognition of her hosting “Homework Helpers” which won third place in the School/Educational Programming Category at the Alliance for Community Media Northeast region Video Festival.

Adopted. (#0124)

CITATION, Councillor Martins, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad and Bousquet, honoring GEORGE GOODFELLOW, in recognition of her hosting “Homework Helpers” which won third place in the School/Educational Programming Category at the Alliance for Community Media Northeast region Video Festival.

Adopted. (#0125)

CITATIONS, Councillor Martins, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad and Bousquet, honoring DAN CABRAL, ANN MARIE LOPES, SUZANNE RICHARD, ETHAN LOPEZ, DANA DEBARROS, KEVIN VIDINHA and STEVEN RICHARD, Videographer, New Bedford Cable Network, in recognition of their coverage of the 2015 New Bedford Half-Marathon and their 2nd Place win in the “Event Coverage-Multiple Cameras” Category at the Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region Video Festival.

Adopted. (#0126)

CITATIONS, Councillor Martins, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad and Bousquet, honoring JOE CABRAL, CHRIS SANTOS and PETE BRALEY, Commentary, New Bedford Cable Network, in recognition of their coverage of the 2015 New Bedford Half-Marathon which won 2nd Place in the "Event Coverage-Multiple Cameras" Category at the Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region Video Festival.

Adopted.

(#0127)

CITATIONS, Councillor Martins, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad and Bousquet, honoring MIKE GIBERTI, JIM DANDENEAU, and ERIC NARCISI, Race Analysis, New Bedford Cable Network, in recognition of their coverage of the 2015 New Bedford Half-Marathon which won 2nd Place in the "Event Coverage-Multiple Cameras" Category at the Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region Video Festival.

Adopted.

(#0128)

The following Resolution was presented by Councillors Gomes, Rebeiro and Carney.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
IN CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 19, 2017

**RESOLUTION IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY 2017**

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a high school teacher, discovered that schools did not teach the history of Black Americans; and in 1915, he set out to change that by establishing the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH) and in 1926, he established "Negro History Week" to be held during the second week of February, this date was chosen because it marked the birthdays of famed abolitionists Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, The Celebration of Black History Week was then expanded to encompass the month of February 1976, the Country's Bicentennial year, but not without some controversy and debate regarding designating a month to the history of one race rather than overall history; therefore, the importance of providing a Theme to focus the attention of the public occurred, to show that the intention was never to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis; and

WHEREAS, The ongoing mission of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, now holding its 102nd Annual ASALH Convention, is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture and to be the premier Black Heritage learned society with a strong network of national and international branches whose diverse and inclusive membership will continue the Woodson Legacy, and one of the most successful means to achieve this goal has been, and still is, BLACK HISTORY MONTH and its powerful Themes; and

WHEREAS, The **THEME** for 2017 is "**THE CRISIS IN BLACK EDUCATION**" focusing on the crucial role of education in the history of African Americans, ASALH's founder Carter G. Woodson once wrote that "if you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race," Woodson understood well the implications associated with the denial of access to knowledge, and he called attention to the crisis that resulted from persistently imposed racial barriers to equal education, the crisis in black education first began in the days of slavery when it was unlawful for slaves to learn to read and write, in pre-Civil War northern cities, free blacks were forced as children to walk long distances past white schools on their way to the one school relegated solely to them, whether by laws, policies, or practices, racially separated schools remained the norm in America from the late nineteenth century well into our own time, throughout the last quarter of the twentieth century and continuing today, the crisis in black education has grown significantly in urban neighborhoods where public schools lack resources, endure overcrowding, exhibit a racial achievement gap, and confront policies that fail to deliver substantive opportunities, the touted benefits of education remain elusive to many blacks of all ages, tragically, some poorly performing schools serve as pipelines to prison for youths, yet, African American history is rich in centuries-old efforts of resistance to this crisis: the slaves' surreptitious endeavors to learn; the rise of black colleges and universities after the Civil War; unrelenting battles in the courts; the black history movement; the freedom schools of the 1960s; and local community-based academic and mentorship programs that inspire a love of learning and thirst for achievement, addressing the crisis in black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America's present and future; and

WHEREAS, We cannot allow Black History Month to pass without recognizing our many local people of color who have accomplished great things against great odds, such as Frederick Douglass, who began his new, free life in our great City; Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. William Carney, who led his Civil War Regiment to victory; Westport's Paul Cuffe, son of an African slave and Wampanoag Indian, born in Cuttyhunk, who, in the years after the American Revolution built an American shipbuilding fortune on the Westport River and founded the first elementary school in Westport, MA; New Bedford Whaling Era's Lewis Temple, inventor of the toggle harpoon; abolitionist and confectioner Polly Johnson; escaped slave Henry "Box" Brown; Edward M. Brooke, III, of Massachusetts, who was the first African-American Attorney General of any State, first African-American United States Senator and a Presidential Medal of Freedom Winner; Deval Patrick, who was the first African-American Governor of Massachusetts; former Illinois Senator Barack Obama, who became the first African-American elected to the Office of President of the United States; as well as many, many other individuals whose accomplishments have not yet been fully recognized; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month continues to pay tribute to the African-American history makers of the past and present, and the sacrifices made to ensure equality among all men and women of this great Nation, and serves as an occasion to examine the collective creativity, cultural and political experience of the masses of Africans and people of

African descent, through lectures, exhibitions, banquets and cultural activities held throughout the United States in schools, communities, Churches and political arenas:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Bedford City Council takes note and celebrates the **MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017**, as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**, urges Citizens to honor and remember the Black Heroes of the past and present, and encourages everyone to take part in activities held Citywide in recognition of our community's rich heritage of diversity; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this Resolution be posted outside of the City Council Chamber for the entire month of February 2017, in recognition of **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**.

Approved.

(#0129)

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Martins and Council President Lopes

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
IN CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 19, 2017

RESOLUTION HONORING BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 15TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE DOWNTOWN NEW BEDFORD CAMPUS

WHEREAS, Bristol Community College's Downtown New Bedford Campus opened in 2001, at the old Star Store location on Union and Purchase Streets; and

WHEREAS, The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth was looking for a partner as they were planning to renovate and occupy the old Star Store Building, with the involvement of State Senator Mark Montigny, the City of New Bedford, Bristol Community College and the College's President Eileen Farley, the Downtown New Bedford Campus was built, a difficult, and detailed collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Theresa Romanovitch, Class of '71 was named the first Director of the New Bedford Campus, and when she began her job in August 2001, Ms. Romanovitch wore a hardhat to work as the contractors were still putting the finishing touches on the New Bedford Campus and staff received permission to use the neighboring Zeiterion Theatre as a student enrollment center; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the approximately 350 students who enrolled that first semester in 2001, the Center for Business and Industry opened, Director Romanovitch organized community breakfasts, set up a task force of political, school and business leaders, and more classrooms were added in an annex nearby; and

WHEREAS, Bristol Community College's Campus at the Star Store Building has proven to have contributed to the economic revitalization of the Downtown area; and

WHEREAS, Today, as Bristol Community College celebrates the 15th anniversary of the Downtown New Bedford Campus, the College offers more than one hundred and fifty career and transfer programs of study leading to a two-year Associate Degree in Science, the Arts, certificates of accomplishment and achievement in programs such as Law Enforcement, Medical Coding, EMT, Early Childhood Education and more, and after obtaining an Associate Degree, BCC students are able to transfer to four-year colleges throughout the Country; and

WHEREAS, Bristol Community College provides hundreds of online courses and state of the art programs, giving students the flexibility to learn at their own pace, students have on-campus computer facilities, updated science labs, wireless access, SMART classrooms and the latest in teaching technology, and later on during the course of their studies, academic counseling, career planning and job placement; and

WHEREAS, Wherever you are in the Southcoast, there is a BCC Campus or satellite close by, with full-service locations in Fall River, New Bedford, Attleboro and Taunton, Bristol Community College's New Bedford Campus provides full-service enrollment with admissions, student advisors, financial aid counselors, a bookstore, a library and computer labs; and

WHEREAS, Bristol Community College's Downtown New Bedford Campus has given students the opportunity to access a higher education on their own individual schedules:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors **BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE** on the **OCCASION OF THEIR 15TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE DOWNTOWN NEW BEDFORD CAMPUS**, commends them for their dedication to the education of future generations and wishes them many more years of continued success.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date.

(#0130)

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

