



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

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NEW BEDFORD  
REGIONAL LOCAL  
CONSUMER  
PROGRAM

FACE TO FACE  
MEDIATION  
PROGRAM

IN COOPERATION WITH  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

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August 7, 2014

Dear Community Partner:

In November of 2012 several community organizations participated in a community dialogue facilitated by the Department of Justice to address issues of tension and conflict within our community. As a community, we identified issues and solutions which we collectively accepted as a plan of action.

Some of the issues of agreement included that the immigrant communities in New Bedford may not understand their civil rights and another was that the role of the New Bedford Public Schools in preventing negative interactions between youth and police could be better defined and expanded.

To date, in addressing some of the issues, many of the stakeholders have continued to pool their resources together to assist the Central American community on issues of safety, inclusion, and knowledge of civil rights. Mayor, Jonathan F. Mitchell has appointed the first Guatemalan woman to the Human Relations Commission. The HRC held presentations and role play with students at Trinity Day Academy and Whaling City Alternative High Schools on "What to do when stopped by a police officer." It was quite successful with all participants benefitting from the engagement. Community collaborative partnerships are growing in an attempt to find solutions to on-going issues.

The action plan is a five year plan and there is much more to accomplish. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 in room 314 at New Bedford City Hall, we invite you to attend the third collaborative meeting of this committee to find solutions to the five issues of concern we collectively agreed upon at the last meeting held on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will include the issues on the agenda which will be forwarded to you prior to the meeting date. The hope is, collectively we will be able to make further gains on the important work that many of us are doing.

We ask that you send representation from your organization to assist in finding solutions to these issues of concern. **Please reply to this email if you will be able to attend or need additional information.** Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

The Community Economic Development Center  
The Puerto Rican Latin American Culture Committee  
The New Bedford Human Relations Commission  
New Bedford Branch of the NAACP  
Faith Based Community

