



Special City Council Celebration Meeting – Minutes

CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

Chambers of the City Council Municipal Building

Thursday, November 17, 2016 – 7:07 p.m.

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

LATE: No One

ABSENT: Councillors Gomes, Lopes, Martins, Oliveira, and Rebeiro.

Council President Morad called the meeting to order and presided.

Prayer Led By: Priscilla Louro – Fonseca, Chaplain Bristol County American Legion.

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

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Martins, to Members of the City Council, informing that he will be absent for the Special City Council Meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016, due to a previously scheduled commitment.

Received and Placed on File. (#2103)

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Lopes, to Members of the City Council, informing that he will be absent for the Special City Council Meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016, due to a previously scheduled commitment.

Received and Placed on File. (#2104)

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Gomes, to Members of the City Council, informing that he will be absent for the Special City Council Celebration Meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016, due to a previously scheduled commitment.

Received and Placed on File. (#2105)

CITATION, Councillor Abreu, honoring MERCY MEALS & MORE, in recognition of the celebration of their fourth annual successful “Country Hoedown”.

Tabled. (#2106)

CITATION, Councillor Bousquet, Council President Morad and Councillor Gomes, honoring ORGELIO “JAY” SOARES, in recognition of his academic, career technical and life accomplishments and continuing to be a role model and living an exemplary life.

Adopted. (#2107)

CITATIONS, Councillors Gomes, Lopes and Winterson, honoring the SEYAA New Bedford Police All Star Baseball Team, Members BENJAMIN SAUNDERS, RYAN SAUNDERS, CJ DUNSTON, BRYCE LOPES, GAVIN AMARAL, RYLAND ROSE, DENZEL CAMACHO, JACOB BENNETT, NOAH BENNETT, BENJAMIN GRANT, ETHAN COSGROVE, JOSIAH SWEENEY, TAGGER HESS, Head Coach, AARON WILLIAMS, and Coaches, GEORGE SYLVIA, ZEEQ LOPES and DEREK GRANT, in recognition of their winning the New Bedford City Championship - 2016.

Adopted. (#2108)

RESOLUTION, Councillor Bousquet and Council President Morad, honoring THE GEORGE KIRBY, JR., PAINT COMPANY, on the occasion of their 169th year in business.

Tabled. (#2109)

The following resolution was presented by Councillor Gomes and Council President Morad.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
IN CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 17, 2016

RESOLUTION HONORING CORPORAL PRISCILLA LOURO FONSECA ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE 2016 SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

WHEREAS, Priscilla Louro Fonseca, a native of New Bedford, was born in November 1930, is the daughter of Manual and Rose (Peters) Louro, was educated in the New Bedford public school system and is a New Bedford High School graduate, Class of 1949; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Fonseca an active member of the New Bedford High School ROTC program, upon graduation, joined the United States Air Force in June 1949, as a Corporal in the Supply Division during the Korean War, beginning in Denver, Colorado, and transferring to the air base in Langley, Virginia, then upon returning home on leave she reconnected at St. John the Baptist Church with her high school friend and future husband Frank, who also served in the Army National Guard for over twenty-one years; and

WHEREAS, Priscilla and Frank married in February 1952, are the parents of four children, Dianne, Frank, Lorrie and Kathleen, have seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren: and

WHEREAS, Upon being honorably discharged, Corporal Fonseca moved back to her native New Bedford, entered Southeastern Massachusetts University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts degrees in History and Bicultural Studies, and began her teaching career both locally and at the American School in Milan, Italy; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Fonseca has been an active member of the Disabled American Veterans Association for the past thirty-two years, the American Legion, Moby Dick Post 459 for over thirty-three years, has served as Commander for District 9, as Adjutant for the New Bedford Veterans Council and currently serves as the Bristol County American Legion District A Chaplain, and was a leader in the development, fundraising and dedication of the New Bedford's Women's Veterans Memorial at Fort Taber Park; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Fonseca, a celebrity in our City, is well known for her New Bedford Cable Access program, Veterans Advocate, which for the past eighteen years has covered issues, educational opportunities and medical services available to returning Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Fonseca is greatly admired by her family, friends and fellow Veterans for her inner strength and independent nature, she is well liked, respected and is a strong role model for others in providing ongoing service to other Veterans in our Greater New Bedford Community; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Fonseca is the consummate Veteran giving back to the community, giving of herself not only to those fellow brothers and sisters who served our Country, but to those that she has come to know during the course of her many years in leadership positions in our area; it is this caring, compassionate service that has earned her the honor of being selected as the twenty-first recipient of the Southeastern Massachusetts Veteran of the Year Award:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council congratulates **CORPORAL PRISCILLA LOURO FONSECA** for her years of service to her Country, her dedication, good deeds and service to the Greater New Bedford Community and extends congratulations on this occasion of being named the **2016 SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN OF THE YEAR**.

Adopted.

(#2110)

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Bousquet.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
IN CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 17, 2016

RESOLUTION DECLARING FREEDOM FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A HUMAN RIGHT

WHEREAS, Twenty-four people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Almost half of teenagers throughout the United States, aged 13-18, reported having a controlling partner, while 80% reported knowing someone who has been controlled by a partner; and

WHEREAS, As of 2008 statistics, eleven percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students in Massachusetts reported being physically abused by a date sometime in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 12,550 calls came into Massachusetts Rape Crisis Centers annually between Fiscal Year 2002 and Fiscal Year 2007; and

WHEREAS, One in two women in Massachusetts have experienced sexual violence victimization other than rape; and

WHEREAS, As of 2010, approximately 52% of the New Bedford population consisted of women; and

WHEREAS, Between 2005-2007, there was an increase in the number of murder and domestic violence related suicides in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Between 2003-2013, there were 277 domestic violence-related homicides in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with 60% of the victims being women or girls; and

WHEREAS, As of March 2016, the Bristol County District Attorney's Office has statistics that state that they monitor 156 men who are identified as high-risk offenders who have had a collective total of 869 protective orders taken out against them and have also been criminally charged 8,414 times; and

WHEREAS, Public safety officials, including members of the Police Department, along with City and local agencies, courts and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence for many individuals; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (ICHR) required the United States to fulfill its duty to prevent violence against women, as was the case of Jessica Lenahan (González) v. the United States, through enacting legislative and policy reforms without discrimination and to provide equal protection under the law for survivors of domestic violence and their children, under Article II of the American Declaration on Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence encompasses various forms of abuse not always recognizable to members of the community, nor do victims or perpetrators of domestic violence fit a particular stereotype associated with the issue:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby acknowledges that domestic violence is an issue that affects every person in society, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or income and recognizes that **FREEDOM FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A HUMAN RIGHT** that no person shall infringe upon and acknowledges that legislation and local government are the first steps in achieving that goal.

Adopted.

(#2111)

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

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