



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

July 14, 2016

City Council President Linda K. Morad and
Honorable Members of the New Bedford City Council
City Hall
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask for your assistance in formally recognizing an exemplary public leader. Ronald H. Labelle began his career with the City in 1988 as the Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, where he remained until 2001 when he was promoted to Commissioner of Water and Wastewater. Two years later Ron was appointed Acting Commissioner of the newly created Department of Public Infrastructure, and a year later was appointed as Commissioner, the post in which he has served for the last twelve years. Last month Ron Labelle retired from this post after twenty-eight years of dedicated service to the City.

The residents of New Bedford will benefit from Ron's leadership and service for decades to come. During his tenure, Ron oversaw the operation and maintenance of critical City services and facilities, including the water and wastewater treatment plants, miles of underground and above-ground infrastructure, and hundreds of acres of open space in our parks and cemeteries.

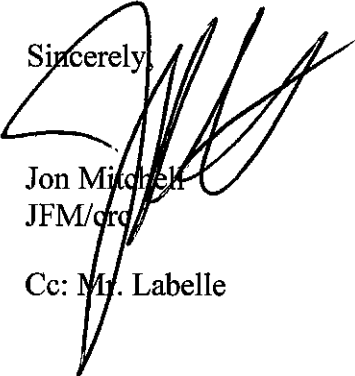
In addition to these core functions, he has utilized a talented team of professionals, craftsmen, consultants, contractors, and laborers, to execute an endless array of special projects that have greatly enhanced the livability and appearance of our city. These projects include the Acushnet Avenue International Marketplace, River's End Park, Custom House Square, Wing's Court, J.F.K. Boulevard and Lower Union Street, Tom Lopes Park, the Buttonwood Park Zoo's elephant habitat, and Harborwalk, to name just a few. And in the last two years, through the City's Forestry Department, he has overseen the planting of over a thousand trees, with many more to come.

Ron and his team have also modernized the City's approach to snow, and have responded effectively to many emergencies, crises, and challenges throughout his tenure.

These accomplishments speak to Ron's attributes as a public servant—an unwavering can-do spirit, a tireless work ethic, strong leadership, a penchant for innovation, and a love of community.

I think it only fitting that we honor Ron's many years of dedicated public service by naming DPI headquarters The Ronald H. Labelle Public Infrastructure Complex. For all Ron has done for the City of New Bedford in his three decades of stellar work, I believe this is an appropriate tribute and urge the Council to join me in recognizing a truly exemplary public servant.

Sincerely,



Jon Mitchell
JFM/crc

Cc: Mr. Labelle