

# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## IN CITY COUNCIL

September 15, 2016

### **RESOLUTION HONORING YOUR THEATRE, INC., ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 70TH ANNIVERSARY**

**WHEREAS**, The origin of Your Theatre, Inc., began in September of 1946, when Mary A. Smith, a professional actress and dedicated teacher, founded the community-based, non-profit theatre as a means to enhance the cultural life of the Greater New Bedford Community, and to develop and encourage dramatic art, while entertaining audiences and Your Theatre, Inc., has been in continual operation since its inception, producing five or more shows each season; and

**WHEREAS**, From the Theatre's first production of Rudolf Besier's, *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* in 1947, staged at the Fairhaven Town Hall, Your Theatre, Inc., has for seventy years been at center stage, entertaining South Coast audiences for three generations; and

**WHEREAS**, In the early years, Your Theatre, Inc., performed at a variety of venues such as the Fairhaven Town Hall, the County Street New Bedford High School Auditorium, Kenyon-Campbell School, Keith Junior High and the Parker Street Mini Theatre, while members of the theatre company dreamed of a building they could call their own; and

**WHEREAS**, In the Spring of 1961, through the generosity of Rudolph Brenneke, Your Theater, Inc., rented the building at the rear of 100 Parker Street, which was converted to a small theatre and became the Theatre's home for the next 18 years, as the theatre company staged over 50 productions ranging in diversity of theme to include high drama, comedy, musicals and children's plays, thereby securing Your Theatre's reputation as a treasure for live theatre in the Greater New Bedford area; and

**WHEREAS**, In September 1979, in conjunction with the City of New Bedford and then Mayor John A. Markey, Your Theatre Inc., assumed occupancy of the New Bedford Textile School, located at 71 Maxfield Street, and began the expansion of this facility into the most fully equipped community theatre of its kind in Southeastern Massachusetts, building an 88 seat main theatre and a 44 seat mini-theatre, and allowing the theater company to expand and diversify operations to a variety of new and exciting productions; and

**WHEREAS**, Your Theatre, Inc., remained at the Maxfield Street location, until November 2004, when the Theatre moved to the present location at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, where the auditorium provides a proscenium stage, 25 foot ceilings, unobtrusive audience viewing and opens a new chapter of possibilities for this community theatre company; and

**WHEREAS**, This civic-minded organization, annually pays tribute to its founder through the Mary Smith Scholarship Fund, granting awards to High School Seniors pursuing a career in the performing arts; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2009, Your Theatre, Inc., hired its first Executive Director and continues the original mission of providing diversity and excellence in theatre, priding itself on being the most professional, nonprofessional theatre group in the area, and inviting new volunteers to join this small, fiercely independent theatre company, which provides numerous opportunities for experienced actors and newcomers, both on stage and off; and

**WHEREAS**, In celebration of Your Theatre, Inc.'s 70<sup>th</sup> Season, five major plays are scheduled to be staged; *California Suite*, *Born Yesterday*, *Never the Sinner*, *The House of Blue Leaves* and *What the Butler Saw*, in addition, Your Theatre, Inc., will also offer special attractions and events promoting theatre arts throughout the season:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the New Bedford City Council hereby commends and congratulates **YOUR THEATRE, INC.**, a true treasure of community theatre, and all the volunteers throughout the past 70 years for their commitment and dedication to local community theatre and the performing arts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That New Bedford and its Citizens eagerly anticipate **YOUR THEATRE, INC.**, productions continuing for many years to come.