

# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## IN CITY COUNCIL

September 15, 2016

### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE NEW BEDFORD JEWISH CONVALESCENT HOME ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**WHEREAS**, Founded in 1961, The New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, Inc., was established when visionary leaders within the Jewish community were notified that the Fall River Jewish Home would no longer accept patients from New Bedford, leaving the elder members of the Jewish community without an option for high quality, compassionate, personalized long-term health services and rehabilitative care; and

**WHEREAS**, The founding committee, led by Dr. Harold Berger, began the planning for the construction of a facility in New Bedford, often meeting at the Hawthorn Street home of David Lumiansky, who always hoped that his home would one day be converted into a home for the aged; and

**WHEREAS**, When Mr. Lumiansky passed away in April 1964, a \$210,000 grant from the Hill-Burton Act provided the seed money for the purchase of the Hawthorn Street property, shortly thereafter, a fundraising campaign for the construction of the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home began and the groundbreaking for the 40 bed, one story building was held on a cold Sunday in November of 1964; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 16, 1966, the Dedication Day for the facility brought out so many local community members that the dedication ceremonies were moved to Lincoln Park to accommodate the 420 people who came to celebrate this outstanding accomplishment; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 6, 1966, under the direction of Estelle Shanbrun, who served as the original Administrator, seven patients were admitted to the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, the first of thousands of patients that for a half a century have been welcomed by the home-like atmosphere and caring services provided to people in their elder years, those recuperating from a debilitating illness or patients who require short-term rehabilitation services; and

**WHEREAS**, Quickly reaching capacity and with strong community support, additions to the kitchen, dining area, nursing stations and a large outdoor porch began almost immediately after the opening of the facility in 1966, and soon the founders and administrators began the planning for the major expansion that would construct a second floor to the facility, this endeavor required a \$1,000,000 fundraising campaign which commenced in November 1973, and allowed for the July 1977 dedication of the second floor, doubling the capacity of the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home to 80 beds to provide twenty-four hour a day skilled nursing and rehabilitation therapy designed to meet the unique needs of each resident; and

**WHEREAS**, Continuing the mission to provide quality long and short term care to the community, in 2006, the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home embarked upon yet another \$4,000,000 project, which expanded the services to include therapy capabilities and broadening the population mix to include shorter stay residents who return home following the skilled nursing and rehabilitative care they received at the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home; and

**WHEREAS**, The New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home has continually been recognized over the years, both regionally and nationally for excellence in providing a unique blend of compassionate quality patient and rehabilitative services, and has received the highly prestigious quality care award in both 2014 and 2016 from the American Health Care Association, which is the Nation's largest association of long-term and post-acute care provider services:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors the **NEW BEDFORD JEWISH CONVALESCENT HOME ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**, thanks the founders for their visionary leadership in establishing this truly remarkable facility, and expresses our deepest gratitude for providing a half-century of compassionate care to patients and their families in the Greater New Bedford area.

Given this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of September in the Year 2016.