

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 20, 2016

RESOLUTION HONORING SPINNER PUBLICATIONS, INC., ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, The origin of Spinner Publications, Inc., began in the fall of 1980, when Joseph Thomas met Professor Donna Huse who was teaching a class on community reporting at the University of Massachusetts; Professor Huse was looking for photographs to accompany student stories while Joseph Thomas was looking for written words to accompany his photographs, both of them hoping to tell the history of the region through photographs; and

WHEREAS, What started as a University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth magazine turned into a book, "Spinner Volume 1: The People and Culture of Southeastern Massachusetts", which was published in 1981, the first of five volumes, detailing the oral history of the region supported by period photographs that present local history in a dramatic and entertaining way; and

WHEREAS, In November 1983, Spinner Publications, Inc., a community based nonprofit corporation was formed with New Bedford native Joseph Thomas serving as Publisher and Executive Director, working from a basement office on Union Street for many years before moving to the current location on William Street, where Joseph Thomas and two employees, Jay Avila and Susan Grace continue the Spinner Publications mission of recording, preserving and promoting the history and culture of Cities and Towns of Southeastern New England through the publication of pictorial images; and

WHEREAS, The Spinner Archives, is acclaimed as New England's most extensive photographic collection, with over one million images of the South Coast region dating back to 1860, and includes historical collections from area newspapers, professional photographers and collectors who have donated their holdings to create an illustrative account which tells the stories of the City, individuals, the land, families and their work; and

WHEREAS, Spinner Publications has published over 40 major book titles and numerous small publications, employing hundreds of local artists, writers, photographers, historians and educators; and

WHEREAS, Spinner Publications has also developed and implemented an oral history magazine curriculum for children grades 5 to 12, that allows students to interview parents or elders and utilize new learning techniques that foster the art of writing; and

WHEREAS, Spinner Publications has won many awards that are testimony to the organization's dedication to excellence in celebrating the heritage of Southeastern Massachusetts and include honors from The Massachusetts Cultural Council's Commonwealth Award, The Fontera Award and the Benjamin Franklin Award, to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, The talented team of local writers and editors under the direction of Publisher Joseph Thomas has recently released "A Picture History of New Bedford, Volume 2", which tells the history of our City from 1602 to the present day, in a publication of more than 1,200 photographs and 100,000 words and has been widely acclaimed as an outstanding pictorial depiction of the history of our City; and

WHEREAS, On November 5th the community will join Spinner Publications, Inc., at the Fort Taber Community Center for an evening celebration to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of this wonderful community based organization that continually brings the reader face to face through photographs with our past:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby commends and congratulates **SPINNER PUBLICATIONS, INC.**, a true treasure of our community, on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary, extends our thanks to Publisher and Executive Director Joseph Thomas for his commitment and dedication to the history of New Bedford and Southeastern Massachusetts and eagerly anticipates **SPINNER PUBLICATIONS, INC.**, pictorial history chronicles continuing for many years to come.