

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 08, 2015

RESOLUTION HONORING THE WILLIAM H. CARNEY LODGE NO. 200, IMPROVED BENEVOLENT ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD, ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, The William H. Carney Lodge No. 200, Improved Benevolent Order of Elks of the World was founded and incorporated on July 15, 1915, its first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge was Dr. W.W. Nelson; and

WHEREAS, The year 2015, is special to the William H. Carney Lodge, No. 200, Improved Benevolent Order of Elks of the World, as it celebrates one hundred years of practicing "Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity", the purpose of the organization is "that the welfare and happiness of its members be promoted and enhanced; that the nobleness of soul and goodness of heart be cultivated; that the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity be inculcated; that its members and families be assisted and protected, and that the spirit of patriotism be enlivened and exalted"; and

WHEREAS, The William H. Carney Lodge was named in honor of Sergeant William Harvey Carney of New Bedford, Massachusetts, who was the first African-American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, awarded during the Civil War for gallantry during the Battle of Fort Wagner, in South Carolina, in 1863, William H. Carney was born a slave in Norfolk, Virginia, he escaped through the Underground Railroad and later served in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry as a Sergeant, he received his medal for saving the American flag while wounded and holding it aloft while the Union troops charged, later returning the flag to the Union lines famously saying "Boys, I only did my duty: the old flag never touched the ground"; and

WHEREAS, William H. Carney died in 1908, and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, with an image of the Congressional Medal of Honor engraved on his headstone, the West End elementary school, the Sergeant William H. Carney Academy is rightly named in his honor, as is the Lodge we are honoring here tonight; and

WHEREAS, For the first ten years the William H. Carney Lodge met in rooms located at 133 Union Street, in April 1925, the Lodge then purchased its first home located on the corner of Cedar and Mill Streets, and would later buy the adjacent home on Mill Street as an annex; and

WHEREAS, Due to the urban renewal project in the West End, the William H. Carney Lodge was able to purchase its present location at Cottage and Mill Streets in 1973, the site was formerly Bridges Office Equipment and prior to that, it was the home of the White Cottage Ice Cream Company; and

WHEREAS, The William H. Carney Lodge No. 200, Improved Benevolent Order of Elks of the World is a non-profit corporation involved in charitable and philanthropic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, The members of the William H. Carney Lodge No. 200, IBOE, have undertaken community involvement through a variety of projects, including hosting a Christmas party for neighborhood children and seeing that each one receives a Holiday gift, Holiday meals for Seniors, supporting youth sports and have provided or assisted in services to our Senior citizens, students, children, citizens that are sick and/or homebound, the Lodge has provided aid and comfort to those in the community that were most in need and experiencing difficult times:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors the **WILLIAM H. CARNEY LODGE NO. 200, IMPROVED BENEVOLENT ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD, ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY**, commends them for a century of community service and the lasting contributions they have made to their City and wishes them many more years of continued success.