

October 22, 2015

**RESOLUTION HONORING VICTOR FERNANDES
PRINCE HENRY SOCIETY PERSON OF THE YEAR – 2015**

WHEREAS, Victor Fernandes is one of ten children, and resides in Acushnet, Massachusetts, with his wife of nineteen years, Christine, and they have three wonderful children together, Isaac, Noah and Isabella; and

WHEREAS, Before immigrating to the United States, Victor attended high school in Portugal: the Secundario Circulo Celorico da Beira and earned his GED from New Bedford High School; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Victor Fernandes has been involved with many organizations dealing with masonry, construction and contractors; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Victor Fernandes and his brothers, Juliao, David, and Jose, founded Fernandes Masonry, Inc., establishing the business in New Bedford, Massachusetts, Fernandes Masonry is a dynamic masonry construction firm dedicated to serving a diverse clientele, for over 18 years, the company has grown into one of the premier masonry contractors in New Bedford and surrounding areas, specializing in new construction and renovations of brick veneer, concrete masonry, architectural precast and cast stone structures for a variety of commercial/retail, educational/institutional and industrial applications for private, public, and Federal contracts; and

WHEREAS, Victor earned his Construction Supervisor License (CSL) and provides construction oversight on all projects, which range from \$10K to over \$7 Million Dollars, Fernandes Masonry, Inc., has received several awards, including the Excellence in Building Construction Platinum Safety Award; and

WHEREAS, Victor Fernandes has also dedicated much of his time to children's causes and is a Board Member of the Portuguese United for Education School and Meeting Street (Schwartz Center for Children), which is a community based provider for children with special needs, Victor and his brothers are known for their generosity to children, especially during Christmas time, participating in the Toys for Tots program for the past 11 years and providing meals to about 500 City residents as well as donating additional toys to 250 plus children in need; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Victor's son, Noah, was diagnosed with M.E.L.A.S, a progressive and degenerative mitochondrial disease, only one year after his diagnosis, Noah began attending The Schwartz Center for Children, now known as Meeting Street, where he received physical, occupational, speech and aquatic therapies, it was then that they realized how other families in our community go through the same struggles of coping with medically fragile children and required needs for special accommodations that insurance companies wouldn't supply, seeing that, they wanted to find a way to help local families with their needs and the needs of their special children; and

WHEREAS, With a dedicated mission to ensure that no child is left without the proper equipment they need, in 2012, Victor and his wife Christine started the "Team Noah Foundation" in honor of their son, Noah, Team Noah is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization whose mission is dedicated to making a difference to children and families with special needs and medical conditions and by equipping them with changes to their environments, they aim to improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Victor Fernandes started INI Screen Printing, Inc., and in 2014, Victor opened a soccer store called INI Soccer Supply, Inc., Victor oversees all operations for all businesses and sponsors many local community organizations including sports teams, in addition, he was also on the ABC show Extreme Home Makeover and participated in an un-televised home makeover with other local contractors to launch a project called "The Jeremiah's Project", in which they helped rebuild a home to make it handicap-accessible for the child and the family; and

WHEREAS, As each day goes by, Victor is reminded how fortunate and lucky he is to have received some of his parent's best qualities; his Mother's empathy and ability to feed those in need of food, and his father's willingness to never turn down anyone who needs help, it is those very same qualities that Victor lives by, not to better himself, but more to enable him to better help others and he has proven himself to be an asset to his community without asking for any recognition; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, October 17, 2015, Victor Fernandes was rightly honored at a Dinner at the Century House in Acushnet, Massachusetts, as the Prince Henry Society Person of the Year – 2015:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council do hereby honor Victor Fernandes as the Prince Henry Society Person of the Year – 2015: