



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

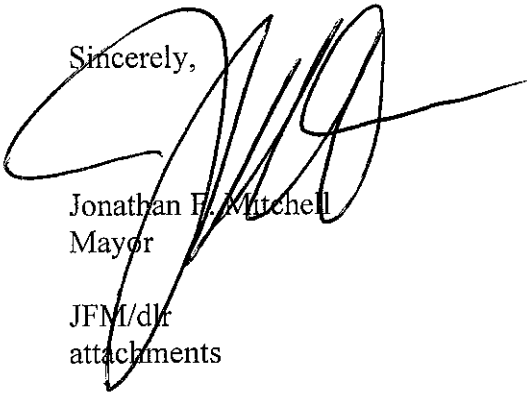
July 13, 2017

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes  
Honorable Members of the City Council  
City of New Bedford  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Lopes and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am submitting for your approval the **APPOINTMENT** of Melissa Branco of 163 Grape Street, New Bedford, MA to the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities. Ms. Branco will be replacing Kimberly Bettencourt whose term has expired. This term will expire in May 2020.

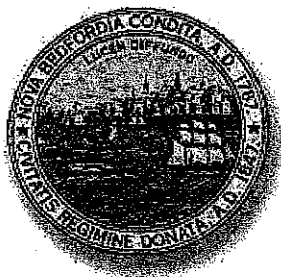
Sincerely,



Jonathan F. Mitchell  
Mayor

JFM/dlr  
attachments

cc: Ms. Branco  
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD  
BOARD & COMMISSION APPLICATION**

28-2017

The Mayor is seeking citizens who wish to serve on City Boards and Commissions established to assist and advise the City on specific matters. Please complete this application in full (attach a resume and other information which may assist the Mayor and the City Council in making its selection) and file it with the Personnel Office. The Mayor reserves the right to reject any application. Some appointments are subject to confirmation by the City Council.

Board/Commission applying for: (see reverse side) Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

Name: Melissa Branco Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address: 163 Grape St. Zip: 02740

Present Occupation & Place of Employment: ESL Teaching Assistant at GNBVT

Educational Background: BA from Salem State

Memberships in Community Organizations or Professional Groups:  
Azorean Maritime Heritage Society

RECEIVED  
JUN 29 2017

City Boards and/or Commissions on which you have previously served:  
none

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

The reasons why you wish to be considered for appointment by the Mayor:  
Personal experience and desire to help overcome obstacles presented to people with disabilities

Please detail specific areas of expertise:

Wheelchair accessibility and brain injury

Please detail specific areas of interest:

Navigating available resources and increasing accessibility to various locations

Available for meetings in the daytime ☐ evenings ☒ both ☐ (check one)

Resident of the City since what year: 1972

Appointees and incumbents may be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest, as required by the City Council Rules or the Mayor. The statement may require a declaration that you have no interest in conflict with the City of New Bedford. Please return your completed application to the Personnel Department, 133 William St., Room 212, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Applications will be kept on file for two years.

**I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING  
INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.**

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Melissa Branco

Date: 6/14/2017

KIMBERLI A. BETTENCOURT, MS Ed.  
796 CHURCH STREET  
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745  
toots796@msn.com  
508-789-6380

April 24, 2017

Cynthia A. Wallquist, M.P.A.  
Director of Community Services  
City Hall - 133 William St., Rm 220  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Ms. Wallquist;

After much contemplation and with great sadness, I am writing with my intent to resign my position as a member of the Commission for Citizen's with Disabilities as of May 31, 2017. After over a decade as both a member and former chairperson of the Commission, I believe strongly in the work being done on behalf of the citizens of New Bedford and hope to continue to support the work of the Commission both as a resident of the City as well as in my position as the Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services for the New Bedford Public Schools.

At this time I find it necessary to give up my seat due to a demanding work schedule, which often prohibits me from attending meetings on a regular basis. I often have professional commitments that interfere not only with my ability to attend Commission meetings but also conflict with my ability to give the necessary attention to Commission initiatives. In fairness to the work of the Commission and the dedication of other members, and after careful consideration, I have decided to resign. I have enjoyed all of my years serving on the Commission and have been honored to advocate for people with disabilities in our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kimberli A. Bettencourt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kimberli A. Bettencourt