

# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## IN CITY COUNCIL

May 18, 2017

### **RESOLUTION HONORING M & C CAFÉ ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN BUSINESS**

**WHEREAS**, On January 13, 1967, Manuel and Catherine Mello, who decided they no longer wanted to work for other people in the New Bedford textile mills, opened their own business, M & C Café, one of the first Portuguese restaurants in the City of New Bedford; and

**WHEREAS**, The first restaurant, located at the existing site, consisted of a very small dining room with six booths and a twelve seat bar, where Manuel and Catherine, along with sons Michael and Paul, worked long days to build the reputation of this family operated restaurant, and in 1974 they had the opportunity to purchase the adjacent building at 436 Belleville Avenue, and doubled the size of the restaurant and bar operation; and

**WHEREAS**, This restaurant quickly became a popular meeting place in the North End of the City, known for its excellent home cooked meals that were affordably priced, allowing families the opportunity to experience a wonderful local dining experience; and

**WHEREAS**, M & C Café creates their delicious menu choices using only local products from area businesses, serving fresh fish and seafood from New Bedford and for many years operating the family's eighty-six acre farm in Acushnet, where they raised the livestock used in the restaurant, grew the vegetables and other fixings that made the restaurant known for their appetizing daily specials; and

**WHEREAS**, Son Michael, who had worked at the restaurant his entire life performing every task from dishwasher to cook, graduated from Johnson and Wales College in 1993, and began the restaurant's catering business which quickly became very successful, and has significantly expanded the business and promotes M & C's delectable offerings at many of the area's elegant social and charitable events; and

**WHEREAS**, On November 30, 2007, after four decades of operation, the restaurant suffered significant damage in a devastating fire that crushed the hearts of the owners who had sacrificed so much to build the restaurant business; and

**WHEREAS**, The Mello family, feeling a great sense of responsibility to the many employees that worked for them for a very long time, began a year-long rebuilding process, cutting the ribbon on November 24, 2008, and reopening the beautifully remodeled restaurant that we all know today; and

**WHEREAS**, Catherine Mello, at 80 years of age, is still the backbone of the restaurant, working every day side by side with her son Michael, continuing the legacy of M & C Café as an affordable family restaurant, serving daily specials that satisfy the food cravings of many area residents;

**WHEREAS**, Trying new ways to promote the restaurant, Michael has conducted classes for cooking enthusiasts and launched Theme Dinner nights, such as "Evening in Paris", "Mardi Gras" and "Fried, Stewed and Nude Oysterfest", where guests are served a full course meal for a reasonable price, that have quickly become sold out events;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors the **M & C CAFÉ ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN BUSINESS**, commends them for their continued commitment to our City and looks forward with anticipation to the next **50 YEARS** of delicious, home cooked meals that will provide families the opportunity to experience a wonderful local dining experience.