

# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## IN CITY COUNCIL

November 17, 2016

### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE GEORGE KIRBY, JR., PAINT COMPANY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 169<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN BUSINESS**

**WHEREAS**, In 1846, George Kirby, Jr., began his business along the waterfront in New Bedford, Massachusetts, calling his new venture, Kirby Paint and Color Works, selling marine paint to protect wooden whaling ship hulls; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirby Paint and Color Works prospered and by 1879, had developed a popular copper bottom paint that was shipped from New Bedford to California and beyond, a method of which has not changed much since the nineteenth century; and

**WHEREAS**, The business dealt with setbacks, in 1887, the original building on Wall Street burnt down, was rebuilt, and survived two major hurricanes before the City forced the Kirbys to move in the 1970s to make way for the construction of Route 18; and

**WHEREAS**, The Kirbys moved their business to Mt. Vernon Street, where it remains today and re-established their customer base adding painting products for cement floors, metal and homes as well as continuing to provide marine paint; and

**WHEREAS**, Located at 162 Mt. Vernon Street, Kirby Paint and Color Works still produces marine paint for use on wooden hulls and decks and now have a line of one-hundred percent acrylic interior and exterior house paint as well as painting supplies, deck oil, pine tar and fiberglass to offer, both as a retail supplier and on-site manufacturer; and

**WHEREAS**, Using century old machinery, the paint is still mixed in the back rooms using pretty much the same method used by the Kirbys for the past eight generations, often filling customized orders, one of the few companies left that still do so; and

**WHEREAS**, The George Kirby, Jr., Paint Company continues to preserve the legacy built over the past one-hundred and sixty-nine years, a legacy of not only a successful product, but of family as they prepare to welcome another George, George Kirby V to the family business in 2017:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors the **GEORGE KIRBY, JR., PAINT COMPANY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 169<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN BUSINESS**, thanks them for their continued hard work and commends them for preserving the legacy of eight generations of **KIRBY** fathers, sons and uncles and their connection to New Bedford's history.

Offered by: