

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 14, 2017

RESOLUTION HONORING STEVEN MARTINS COUNCILLOR WARD TWO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NEW BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL AFTER A DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW BEDFORD

WHEREAS, A life-long resident of New Bedford and the son of Portuguese immigrants, John and Carmen Martins, Councillor Steven Martins was educated at St. Anthony's Elementary School and went on to graduate from New Bedford High School, Bristol Community College and UMASS Dartmouth, making him the first in his family to earn a high school diploma and a college degree; and

WHEREAS, Blessed to have a wonderful family and fortunate to have received some of his parents' best qualities, including his mother's empathic nature and his father's strong business and financial sense, but sadly losing his father John to brain cancer at the age of 51 in 2012, Councillor Martins relies on these and other qualities, living each day with a drive to advance in life, not only for himself, but to better serve his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, On November 06, 2007, in his first run for public office, Steven Martins was elected Councillor of Ward Two at the age of 24, becoming one of the youngest candidates to ever win public office in the City of New Bedford; and

WHEREAS, Councillor Steven Martins worked on countless issues facing our City, focusing on fiscal responsibility and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Councillor Steven Martins worked on the Acushnet Avenue International Marketplace project, which included street scaping and many roadway improvements that enhanced the vibrancy of this key business district, doing so by garnering input and support from the community, area businesses and the New Bedford Economic Development Council, thus stimulating small business growth and dramatically improving the City's near north end; and

WHEREAS, Councillor Steven Martins has also worked with both public and private partnerships in order to transform Riverside Avenue into a thriving neighborhood, where he strongly supported the redevelopment of the historic mills, voting against their demolition and promoting instead their historical value and revitalization, which was the second highest priority of Preservation Massachusetts; and with hard work, planning and hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of public and private investment along Riverside Avenue, the City now has Whaler's Place, Whaler's Cove, Victoria Riverside, Manomet Place, Riverside Lofts, and in the future, Cliflex North Mill; and

WHEREAS, Councillor Steven Martins has chaired the Council's Committee on Ordinances and has served on the Traffic Commission, the Committees on Appointments and Briefings, Finance, Internal Affairs, Public Safety and Neighborhoods, Fisheries, Veterans Affairs, Elderly, Housing and Disability Issues, Audit and the Special Committees on Environmental Affairs, Memorials and Dedications, Gaming/Casinos, Soccer Fields, Charter Revision Commission, Employment Opportunities, Budget Review and Licensing and Zoning for Cannabis; and

WHEREAS, As Chairman of the Committee on Ordinances for the last eight years, he worked with his colleagues to pass Ordinances, even at times creating Ordinances that challenged pending legislation in the State House, such as the 2010 ban on text messaging while driving, enabling New Bedford to be among the first cities in Massachusetts to pass such a law before the legislature; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Councillor Steven Martins was elected by his colleagues to serve as City Council President, and served as First Vice President in 2013, 2014, and second Vice President in 2015; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his Council duties, Councillor Steven Martins serves as Assistant Director/Regional Manager for the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission and is also a Justice of the Peace for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he has also served as Director of Administration for the Bristol County Retirement System, Operations Manager for the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and as an Employment and Training Specialist for New Directions of SouthCoast; and

WHEREAS, Involved in several community organizations, Councillor Steven Martins is a member of his local neighborhood associations, the Democratic City Committee, has served on the UMASS Dartmouth and Bristol Community College Alumni Boards, and volunteers for Operation Clean Sweep, Relay for Life, the Jimmy Fund and Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, Councillor Martins has received numerous awards, including, but not limited to, being recognized as one of New England Business Bulletin's Top Young Professionals in 2010, 2011, and 2015 and was a 2016 recipient of the House of Representatives' Heritage Day of Portugal Award; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure as Councillor, Steven Martins has demonstrated what smart, progressive leadership can accomplish by re-defining the way politics can work in New Bedford; and

WHEREAS, After a decade of service to his Ward Two constituents, Councillor Steven Martins made the decision to not run for a sixth term:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors their Friend and Colleague **STEVEN MARTINS, COUNCILLOR WARD TWO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER A DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**, a Councillor who served this City with a strong sense of duty, and commends him for a distinguished and accomplished political career.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council extends to their Friend, **THE HONORABLE STEVEN MARTINS COUNCILLOR WARD TWO**, their very best wishes for continued good fortune and much happiness in the years to come as this Resolution is presented to him on the occasion of his last City Council Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2017.