

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 13, 2018

RESOLUTION AGAINST CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN NEW BEDFORD

WHEREAS, Free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, All of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and

WHEREAS, Local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, New Bedford is losing \$11,872,156 to Commonwealth charter schools and public school districts across the State are losing more than \$450 million this year alone --- a loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objections of a majority of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low-income students and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students and often use high suspension rates to drive out students they don't want to serve; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth charter school system is creating separate and unequal opportunities for success; and

WHEREAS, Expanding the number of charter school seats in New Bedford would greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council opposes expanding the number of charter school enrollees in the City of New Bedford.