

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 09, 2018

**RESOLUTION HONORING DR. MELVIN B. YOKEN
CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AND
DIRECTOR OF THE BOIVIN CENTER FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS BEING AWARDED
THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR**

WHEREAS, Chancellor Professor Emeritus Dr. Melvin Yoken, born the son of a glass manufacturer in Fall River, Massachusetts, attended B.M.C. Durfee High School where he first studied the French language, Dr. Yoken is married to Cynthia Stein Yoken; and together they are the proud parents of Andrew, David and Jonathan, and are the proud grandparents of Ryder, Jonah, Tommy, Mason, Eli and Weston; and

WHEREAS, On completion of his high school studies, Dr. Yoken continued his French studies while attending the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Middlebury College, the University of Cincinnati, Brown University and the Five College Cooperative Program comprising the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, Amherst College and Hampshire College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yoken then taught at Newton High School and later at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, while working toward his Ph.D.; and

WHEREAS, Having spent four decades teaching successively at Southeastern Massachusetts Technical Institute, Southeastern Massachusetts University and the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth, Dr. Yoken attained the ranks of Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Chancellor Professor and the preeminent rank of which he holds today, Chancellor Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature; and

WHEREAS, While serving as a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth, Dr. Yoken graciously offered his academic services as a faculty advisor, alliance member, program representative, board member, president, vice-president and director at several University affiliates like the French Club, Table Française, French and Canadian Studies Program, Claire T. Carney Library Associates and The Center for Jewish Culture; and

WHEREAS, After serving as a board member at the Boivin Center for French Language and Culture from 1985 to 1999, Dr. Yoken became the Boivin Center's Director, a position he retains today as he leads the Center through its fourth decade since its founding in 1985 with a grant from Dr. Omer E. Boivin, a urologist from Fall River; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yoken holds various professional memberships and is a life member in a variety of professional organizations in disciplines such as the French language, foreign language, literature and teaching, he is moreover a community leader having served the cities of New Bedford, Fall River and other communities; with his lovely wife, Cynthia, serves as a philanthropist, administering scholarships and endowments, sponsoring lecture series and donating personal collections to archives:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby sincerely thanks and honors **DR. MELVIN YOKEN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BEING AWARDED THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR, FRANCE'S HIGHEST HONOR, FOR HIS CAREER STUDYING FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**, commends him for his exemplary career at the University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth, and thanks him for his professionalism, dedication and passion in his role as a teacher; and further, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the members of the New Bedford City Council extend their warm and sincere wishes to **DR. MELVIN YOKEN**, for a continued long, happy, productive and healthy retirement.