



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**

**JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR**

November 13, 2018

President Linda Morad and Honorable Members of the New Bedford City Council  
City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear President Morad and Members of the City Council,

I am submitting for your approval the appointment of New Bedford Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro as Harbormaster for a term of five years in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 109 of the Acts of 2014. I am also hereby requesting your approval of a residence waiver as required under Chapter 109.

The designation of the Police Chief as Harbormaster will formalize and strengthen the existing operational arrangement between the New Bedford Police Department Marine Unit and the New Bedford Port Authority (NBPA). It will make clear the respective roles of each agency, with the Port Authority staff assisting and coordinating harbor users, while the Police Department personnel under the Police Chief's command focus on maritime law enforcement.

It is important to note that the Chief will not in any way be diverted from his many other duties as Chief. While the Chief would hold this appointment in fulfillment of the provisions of the state law, the Marine Unit's current Assistant Harbormasters (overseen by their Ranking Officer who reports up the police chain of command) will perform all the daily law enforcement-related activities on the Chief's behalf—just as they presently do.

It is because of these advantageous that it has become common practice among other Massachusetts port communities to assign the harbormaster authority to the local police chief. Finally, please be advised that this appointment will have no impact operationally or budgetarily on Chief Cordeiro, the Police Department, or the City of New Bedford, and the appointment has the full support of the NBPA Commissioners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jon Mitchell