



## CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

May 23, 2019

The Honorable Linda M. Morad, President of the New Bedford City Council  
and Honorable Members of the Council

City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Morad and Members of the Council:

I write to propose that the City appropriately honor former Mayor Rosemary S. Tierney for her many public achievements and contributions to the City. In her long career in public service, she ably served New Bedford in a variety of important capacities, including as a School Committee member, Governor's Councilor, and board member of the regional refuse district. As the City's first woman elected to the Office of Mayor (1992-1998), she holds a special place in New Bedford's history.

Mayor Tierney's tenure as the City's chief executive was marked by notable accomplishments in key areas. In particular, her leadership helped to elevate the status of New Bedford's major cultural institutions. She facilitated the designation of our historic district as a National Park and the establishment of the New Bedford Art Museum, both major anchors of our downtown today. In the face of steady pushback, she also committed significant City resources to restore the Buttonwood Park Zoo after years of decline. In retrospect, it is clear that without her leadership, the zoo would not exist today. All of these measures have brought countless tourists to the city, but more importantly, they have improved the City's quality of life and reputation.

Mayor Tierney was committed to ensuring that city government functioned effectively. Above all, she worked to keep the City's finances on solid ground. She acted to prevent downgrades to the City's bond rating, built a budget surplus, and initiated a strategic plan to restore and maintain parks, beaches, and municipal facilities for the future. She was especially committed to the City's Council on Aging and the needs of New Bedford's senior citizens, opening new senior centers downtown and at Brooklawn Park, investing in new transportation for seniors, and upgrading existing senior centers including the Hazelwood Senior Center.

An educator by profession, Mayor Tierney's work was founded on her determination to make New Bedford a better place. In recognition of her dedication to New Bedford, her focus on improving parks and city spaces, and providing for the needs of senior citizens, I ask that the council approve the re-naming of the Hazelwood Senior Center as the "Rosemary S. Tierney Community Center." I believe that in so doing, the City would establish a fitting and lasting tribute to an exemplary public servant.

Sincerely,

Jon Mitchell