

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 21, 2019

RESOLUTION HONORING REVEREND DAVID A. LIMA, EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL AND PASTOR NEW SEASONS WORSHIP CENTER PRINCE HENRY SOCIETY 2019 PERSON OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, The New Bedford Chapter of the Prince Henry Society of Massachusetts recognized longtime Clergyman and community leader Reverend David A. Lima, the son of Azorean immigrants, as the 2019 Person of the Year during its annual Installation Banquet on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the Shining Tides in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, The Prince Henry Society of Massachusetts, is a local non-profit organization comprised of many prominent businessmen which promotes numerous initiatives in our community to support, foster and preserve the Portuguese Heritage. Additionally, the Prince Henry Society acknowledges outstanding volunteerism in our community by recognizing exceptional achievements through awards such as "Brotherhood and Recognition", "Portuguese American of the Year" and "Person of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima, a lifelong New Bedford resident, has been the Executive Minister of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford since November 2006, and has served in a variety of leadership positions for the Council, including as President from 2001-2005; this being in addition to he and his wife of thirty-nine years, the Reverend Joanne Lima, serving as Senior Pastors of New Seasons Worship Center in East Freetown, Massachusetts since 2000; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima devotes his time to serving the needs of his family, congregation, the Inter-Church Council and our community as a whole, is deeply committed to bringing all houses of faith together with a vision of unified community ministry, which has led to the Inter-Church Councils effective collaboration with community organizations and government leaders, thereby broadening the faith community's role in meeting the needs of Greater New Bedford by raising public awareness and creating positive change in many areas of critical concern; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima is a graduate of the inaugural year of Leadership Southcoast, having since served on its board, including a term as President, Reverend Lima continues to serve on numerous boards and committees of many religious, civic and community organizations, both locally and statewide; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima has worked to establish and expand programs in our public schools, including "Healthy Choices" - an anti-bullying program which ran for 7 years containing curriculum based on the teachings and quotes of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and, through his work with the Inter-Church Council, Reverend Lima has also provided Chaplains to our schools and community during times of crisis and traumatic events; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima has helped lead public rallies, Church services and neighborhood walks against violence and other tragic events both local and national, and has helped plan and conduct Safety Gun Exchanges using Houses of Worship as safe havens, resulting in hundreds of firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition being collected; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima chairs the Homeless Service Providers' Network for the City of New Bedford and is a driving force behind addressing and resolving the problem of homelessness and its root causes, looking for solutions and partnerships in order to assist people as they seek to reestablish their lives; and by working with Peter Muise, Carl Alves and the Providers' Network, Reverend Lima was a part of establishing "Rise Up For Homes" - a program that works to ensure that there are enough shelters available to homeless individuals during periods of cold weather; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima founded and leads the Greater New Bedford Suicide Prevention Coalition, raising awareness of this devastating problem and training over 3,000 people in suicide prevention, was presented with a "Leadership in Suicide Prevention" award at the Massachusetts State House; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima is the Chaplain for the New Bedford Police Department and one of the founders and leaders of the Community Outreach and Advocacy Program, doing outreach to anyone who overdoses from opioids with follow-up visits in order to connect people and families to services; this newest outreach of the Inter-Church Council is a collaboration with the New Bedford Police Department, Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction and Seven Hills Behavioral Health; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Lima always encourages people to work together to make a difference, considering that over ninety percent of community efforts are done with volunteers, Reverend Lima believes that, "When people with different views and perspectives work together in a community effort, we usually find that we have more in common than we realized. Barriers come down, respect and understanding go up; and a difference is made!";

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors **REVEREND DAVID A. LIMA, EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL AND PASTOR OF NEW SEASONS WORSHIP CENTER, AS THE PRINCE HENRY SOCIETY 2019 PERSON OF THE YEAR**, thanks him for his selfless hard work and devotion to Christian values, the City Council further extends best wishes for many more years of happiness and success in his continued ministry.