

## Chartering our Course back to Normalcy

As we start the discussion of reopening our City, it's important to mention that our progress to date, has been driven by the hard work of the dedicated health care professionals, first responders, essential workers and our City residents who with their sacrifices have helped move us through this pandemic.

As we look forward, we'll need to maintain this collective effort and work even closer for the continued benefit of our community and to be better prepared for the process of economic recovery and a return to our normal life with a stronger public and economic health.

The City will be challenged to make independent decisions while working closely with the Governor as we simultaneously open our community with the state and transition out together. We know reopening New Bedford won't happen in one day and to balance safety with economic success, we will reopen our City in four overlapping phases allowing for a quicker safe pace.

### **Phase I:**

- Define and determine what "non-essential" businesses may voluntarily reopen under TEMPORARY restrictions. While still following social distancing measures recommended by the Board of Health. An example of a new measure would be; no walk-ins at a barbershop or beauty salon, instead all patrons would have to have an appointment and they would not be able to wait inside for their appointment to start. Additionally, both the customer and the technician would have to wear a mask.
- Childcare center owners will need to structure a cleaning plan to allow for the safety of all kids and child care center staff.
- Retail stores may open, but employees and customers will be asked and encouraged to continue to wear facial coverings for an additional but temporary period. Additionally, we would work with the Board of Health to determine new temporary occupancy numbers.
- Reopen golf courses for walking golfers only, no tournaments for an undisclosed period. All outings would start with a more staggered start time. Additionally, raised cups at each hole and no flags in the holes, and the removal of ball cleaners. These would also be temporary measures.
- Social events and public gatherings over 20 people would still be prohibited.

### **Phases II:**        Would include a discussion on each of the following:

- The gradual reopening of dine-in restaurants and bars under a revised occupancy count. We need to work the owners of each these businesses both for their longevity and the safety of both patrons and employees.
- Gym owners will need to structure a cleaning plan to allow for the safety of all users and gym members.
- Beaches and parks and playgrounds would be reopened but with social distancing still in play. Possible wearing of masks for adults and children.

- The following would remain prohibited in phase II for an additional undisclosed period of time, but with the most care and thoughtfulness to get back to normal as soon as possible.
  - Nursing homes
  - sporting events including youth sports
  - In-person worship services

### **Phase III**

Will include a review of the occupancy numbers for business with the goal to increase the occupancy and to also increase the size or limitation on the number of people allowed to gather.

During this phase, the goal would be to include in-person worship services and sporting events including youth sports.

### **Phased IV**

A return to normalcy.

The goal of phased in reopening is to both make sure that we are all safe and that our business community continues to prosper. Our continued progress will be carried by all our sacrifices in the last month and our continued unity as we move forward together.