

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
IN CITY COUNCIL

September 23, 2021

RESOLUTION HONORING ALYSSA MAITOZA
MISS NEW BEDFORD 2020

WHEREAS, The Miss New Bedford Pageant is the official preliminary to the Miss America Pageant, which is the largest single source of scholarships for young women in the world; and

WHEREAS, Since 1954, when the New Bedford Jaycees began sponsoring the Miss New Bedford Pageant, the young women who compete for the crown of Miss New Bedford have always been intelligent, articulate, talented, hardworking and wonderful ambassadors of young women, who are motivated to succeed by choosing platforms that make a great contribution to our local community and promote public service; and

WHEREAS, For over sixty years, The Miss New Bedford Pageant has advanced the continued education of pageant contestants through the generous granting of scholarship awards and has provided an arena for young women from the Greater New Bedford area the opportunity to advocate for causes that are of importance to them; and

WHEREAS, Alyssa Maitoza of Dartmouth, was a 16-year-old Junior at Dartmouth High School, when she was named Miss Massachusetts' Outstanding Teen 2016 at the 17th annual Miss Massachusetts' Outstanding Teen pageant at Keith Middle School in New Bedford, Alyssa, who competed as Miss New Bedford's Outstanding Teen, also had the opportunity to compete in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen pageant in August of that year in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, When Alyssa Maitoza was named New Bedford Outstanding Teen, she impressed the judges with her confidence, public speaking abilities, stage presence, talent, and poise, Alyssa performed a tap dance to Dirty Pop by Justin Timberlake, not only winning the title, she received the Talent Award, Overall Interview Award, Scholastic Achievement Award, Community Service Award, and the Spirit of Outstanding Teen Award; and

WHEREAS, Alyssa Maitoza, the 67th young woman to hold the title of Miss New Bedford, was also named Miss Bristol County 2018 and was first runner up in the Miss Massachusetts Pageant that same year; she is a recent graduate of Rhode Island College, earning two degrees, in Musical Theatre and Dance and now teaches dance, acting and voice across the South Coast and performs professionally; and

WHEREAS, Alyssa Maitoza, Miss New Bedford competed for the title of Miss Massachusetts 2021, she placed in the top 5, and won the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals "Miracle Maker" Award for raising the most funds for Boston Children's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Making over 200 appearances, in person and virtually as Miss New Bedford, Alyssa Maitoza promoted her social impact initiative "The Arts in Action", at the local and State level in the New Bedford Public School system, with community arts organizations such as South Coast Children's Theatre, Showstoppers Vocal Troupe, the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, New Bedford Festival Theatre and the Burt Wood School of Performing Arts, and online through many virtual sing alongs, fundraisers, talent showcases and appearances; and

WHEREAS, As Miss New Bedford, Alyssa Maitoza's reign was quite different due to the pandemic, she was still able to volunteer with numerous organizations in the community, helped register voters in the 2020 Presidential election, assisted with the City of New Bedford's drive to fill out the US Census of 2020, and at the height of the lockdown, Alyssa handed out thousands of free masks and provided information about free local COVID-19 testing sites; and

WHEREAS, As she ends her reign as Miss New Bedford, Alyssa Maitoza will close a thirteen year chapter of her involvement in the Miss New Bedford Scholarship program, an organization that she is forever grateful to for her growth as a young woman and her confidence to pursue her dreams:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors **ALYSSA MAITOZA**, for her two years of service as **MISS NEW BEDFORD 2020**, thanks her for representing our City so well, congratulates her on her many accomplishments during her two-year reign and wishes her continued luck and success in the future.

Offered by:

Joseph P. Lopes, City Council President

Ian Abreu, Councillor at Large

Maria E. Giesta, Councillor Ward Two

Derek Baptiste, Councillor Ward Four

Brian K. Gomes, Councillor at Large

Naomi Carney, Councillor at Large

Scott J. Lima, Councillor Ward Five

Dehora Coelho, Councillor at Large

Brad Markey, Councillor Ward One

Hugh C. Dunn, Councillor Ward Three

Linda M. Morad, Councillor at Large