

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 9, 2021

RESOLUTION HONORING JOSEPH PATRICK LOPES, COUNCILLOR WARD SIX AFTER TWELVE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

WHEREAS, Joseph P. Lopes is the son of John R. and Dorothy D. Lopes, has a brother John and a son Joseph; and

WHEREAS, Joseph P. Lopes graduated from New Bedford High School, Bristol Community College, majoring in Business Management, the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth earning a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Political Science, and in 2002, graduated from Johnson and Wales University, earning a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in International Business; and

WHEREAS, First elected to public service in November 2009, Councillor Joseph P. Lopes has Chaired the Committees on Veterans Affairs, Elderly, Health, Housing and Disability Issues, Labor and Industry, Finance, and the Special Committees on Budget Review, and was a member of the Committees on Appointments and Briefings, City Property, Audit, Fisheries, Ordinances, Public Safety and Neighborhoods, Internal Affairs, the Special Committees on Environmental Affairs, Gaming and Casinos, Soccer Fields, Charter Revision Commission, Employment Opportunities and Memorials and Dedications; and

WHEREAS, Always a strong voice for the people of the South End, Councillor Joseph P. Lopes made sure the concerns of Ward Six were brought to the forefront in City Council Chambers and worked for years to improve the South End of the City by way of his knowledge and experience; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his community involvement as an elected official, Councillor Joseph P. Lopes gave selflessly of his time working with the Ward Six Democratic Committee, Clark's Point Neighborhood Association, was an Assistant Youth Soccer and Baseball Coach, a Board Member of the South End Business Association, a Board Member of Save the Orpheum Theater, a member of the Prince Henry Society and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of New Bedford; and

WHEREAS, One of the proudest moments of his career as Ward Six Councillor was when Councillor Joseph P. Lopes attended the ribbon cutting of the CoveWalk, a 5 million dollar State investment that Councillor Lopes had worked on, located atop the Hurricane Barrier at Clark's Cove; a Hurricane Barrier that was built from 1962 to 1966 and remains the largest man-made structure on the East Coast of the United States, CoveWalk, a 5,500 foot City-owned paved path offers a beautiful view of the harbor; and

WHEREAS, The new Irwin M. Jacobs Elementary School was dedicated with Irwin M. and Joan Jacobs in attendance on May 18, 2018, constructed on the site of the former John Hannigan Elementary School, the Jacobs School serves an estimated 400 students, from Kindergarten through Grade 5, fully equipped for innovated teaching and a state of the art learning environment, a project long championed by Councillor Joseph P. Lopes; and

WHEREAS, In order to better protect the residents of the South End and the City of New Bedford as a whole, Councillor Joseph P. Lopes worked tirelessly as both the Ward Six City Councillor and as a member of the Building Committee responsible for the construction and timely opening of the new South Public Safety Center, the state-of-the art 25,000 square foot facility located at Brock Avenue and Ruth Street which houses Police, Fire and Emergency Management Services and will serve the residents of the South End and New Bedford for many generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Serving during the Administrations of Mayors Scott W. Lang and Jonathan F. Mitchell, Councillor Joseph P. Lopes was in constant attendance at all City Council Meetings, Committee Meetings and Budget Hearings during his years in office, highly involved in all financial and legislative matters that came before the body; and has expressed much gratitude for the opportunity he has had to serve and hopefully will again serve in the very near future; and

WHEREAS, A strong, leading force on the City Council, Councillor Joseph P. Lopes served the people of his district honorably, had the courage to make tough decisions that he felt were in the best interest of Ward Six, was chosen to lead the City Council four times as its President; and he will be deeply missed as his colleagues pay tribute to his years of service to the good people of New Bedford;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors their Friend and Colleague **JOSEPH PATRICK LOPES, COUNCILLOR WARD SIX AND FOUR TIME CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, 2014, 2017, 2020 AND 2021, AFTER TWELVE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS,** an outstanding public leader who always put the interests of Ward Six first, who served this City with a keen sense of duty, commends him for a distinguished and accomplished political career with a record of public service that stands as a monument to a life well lived and offers him a sincere **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE JOE – AND JOB WELL DONE.**

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council extends to **JOSEPH PATRICK LOPES COUNCILLOR WARD SIX,** our very best wishes for continued good fortune and pride in all that he has accomplished.

This Resolution is presented to the Honorable Joseph P. Lopes, Councillor Ward Six as an expression of his Colleagues and Staff high esteem, respect and affection on the occasion of his last City Council Meeting on Thursday, December 09, 2021.

Offered by:

Brian K. Gomes, Councillor at Large

William Markey, Councillor Ward One

Naomi R.A. Carney, Councillor at Large

Maria E. Giesta, Councillor Ward Two

Debora Coelho, Councillor at Large

Hugh C. Dunn, Councillor Ward Three

Linda M. Morad, Councillor at Large

Derek Baptiste, Councillor Ward Four

Scott J. Lima, Councillor Ward Five

Ian Abreu, Councillor at Large