

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 09, 2021

RESOLUTION HONORING DEBORA COELHO COUNCILLOR AT LARGE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER 16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

WHEREAS, Councillor at Large Debora Coelho was first elected to public office in 2005, she is a longtime resident of New Bedford and is married to Tony Coelho and is a graduate of the New Bedford Public School System; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 19, Debora Coelho became a successful businesswoman who established, sustained and expanded her business, Debora the Master Seamstress, specializing in bridal gowns in the City of New Bedford for more than thirty years as a business and property owner; and

WHEREAS, Debora Coelho is fully committed to family, community, and education and in 2009, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Bristol Community College with an Associate's Degree in Communications, Bridgewater State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and later, a Master's Degree in Public Administration also from Bridgewater State University; and

WHEREAS, For many years, prior to her election to the New Bedford City Council, Debora Coelho worked for the betterment of her community by serving as President of the Bullard Street Neighborhood Association, Vice-President of Neighborhoods United, Director of the North End Business Association and as a Board Member for the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, she is also a graduate of Leadership Southcoast and the New Bedford Citizens Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, Councillor at Large Debora Coelho's history as a volunteer includes dealing with such issues as improving City sanitation and trash services, public safety summits/drug enforcement and gangs, vacant/abandoned property issues/problem properties, graffiti cleanup, community policing, neighborhood grants, PCB environmental cleanups and illegal hazardous waste dumping; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Councillor at Large Debora Coelho was selected as the Standard-Times Woman of the Year for New Bedford, she has also been named the North End Business Association Member of the Year and has been the recipient of the Massachusetts State Portuguese Heritage Award; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure as a Councillor at Large Debora Coelho has served as Chairperson of the Committees on Appointments and Briefings, Labor and Industry, Audit, Public Safety and Neighborhoods, and has Chaired the Special Committees on Environmental Affairs, Memorials and Dedications, Airport, Energy Resource and Exhibition Hall, she has also been a member of the Committees on Ordinances, Finance, City Property, Dog Park, and Veterans Affairs, Elderly, Youth, Health, Housing and Disability Issues; and

WHEREAS, Councillor at Large Debora Coelho also hosted community shows on the local Cable Access Channel titled, "The Debora Coelho Show" and "Let's Talk", focusing on people, neighborhoods and the more positive aspects of New Bedford; and

WHEREAS, Councillor Debora Coelho has left a legacy of working hard to build up her community, ensuring that all City services were met and holding all areas of local City Government accountable; and

WHEREAS, After sixteen years as a member of the New Bedford City Council, Councillor at Large Debora Coelho made the decision to not seek a ninth term:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of New Bedford hereby honors **DEBORA COELHO, COUNCILLOR AT LARGE, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER 16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**, commends her for her dedicated hard work on behalf of the Citizens of the City she loves and thanks her for her years of service.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council extends their best wishes to their Friend, **DEBORA COELHO, COUNCILLOR AT LARGE**, wishing her the best of luck in all her future plans and endeavors.

Offered by:

Joseph P. Lopes, City Council President

Brian K. Gomes, Councillor at Large

Naomi R.A. Carney, Councillor at Large

Hugh C. Dunn, Councillor Ward Three

Derek Baptiste, Councillor Ward Four

Maria E. Giesta, Councillor Ward Two

Linda M. Morad, Councillor Ward One

Ian Abreu, Councillor at Large

Scott J. Lima, Councillor Ward Five

William Markey, Councillor Ward One