

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 16, 2022

RESOLUTION HONORING THE WASHINGTON SOCIAL AND MUSICAL CLUB, INC., ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, Members of the community in the South End of New Bedford established The Washington Social and Musical Club, Inc., in 1892; and

WHEREAS, The Washington Social and Musical Club, Inc., formed on Social Street, quickly grew to acquire a liquor license in 1898, and purchased a small wooden structure which was a local orphan's home, later that same year located on the corner of Cove Street and Rodney French Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, The Club moved into a new three-story brick building at the same location which handled the Washington Social and Musical Club's needs as an growing organization, which facilitated a members-only barbershop, a ballroom for live bands and dancing, and a hall for functions; and

WHEREAS, In 1922, a fire badly damaged much of the interior of the building and members had to rebuild the club, eventually selling the property in 1960, to the City of New Bedford for the purpose of creating the Howland Green Branch Public Library, where the library still stands today; and

WHEREAS, The Washington Social and Musical Club, Inc., purchased its current location on David Street where the Club serves the organization's membership, the Washington Club's leadership has also hosted many community events such as Halloween parties for member's children, Christmas gifts for needy children, Veteran's bike runs; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, the Washington Social and Musical Club, Inc., hosted a fundraiser for fallen New Bedford Police Officer Michael Cassidy, who was a member of the Club, to benefit his family after his death due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Under the current leadership of Ken Kendall, President; Dave DeMello, Vice-President; Dee Kendall, Treasurer; and Donna Horrocks, Secretary; the Washington Social and Musical Club, Inc., adapted to new liquor laws and government restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, started cooking full menu dinner options that allowed members to continue enjoying their club;

WHEREAS, The Washington Social and Musical Club, Inc., continues to serve as a member's club and hosts many parties and functions as they did since their founding:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby congratulates the **WASHINGTON SOICAL AND MUSICAL CLUB, INC., ON THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY**, and wishes them success and good fortune in the future.

Offered by:

Ryan J. Pereira, Councillor Ward Six

Ian Abreu, City Council President

Shane A. Burgo, Councillor at Large

Brad Markey, Councillor Ward One

Naomi R.A. Carney, Councillor at Large

Maria E. Giesta, Councillor Ward Two

Brian K. Gomes, Councillor at Large

Hugh C. Dunn, Councillor Ward Three

Scott J. Lima, Councillor Ward Five

Derek Baptiste, Councillor Ward Four

Linda M. Morad, Councillor at Large