

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 16, 2022

RESOLUTION HONORING THE IMMIGRANTS ASSISTANCE CENTER, INC., ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, Members of the local Portuguese Community established the Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc., in 1971; and

WHEREAS, The Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc., was organized to help immigrants adjust to life in America and overcome social, economical and cultural barriers in their new country; and

WHEREAS, The mission statement of the Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc., is to assist, promote, develop, and coordinate civic, educational, charitable, governmental, business, medical, legal and religious organizations and firms in advocating, upgrading and organizing in the interests of persons emigrating to the United States, particularly to Southeastern Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Former New Bedford City Councillor and businessman, Manuel F. Neto, was a founding member of the Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc., and was instrumental in the early success and direction of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Helena Hughes began working with the organization in 1984, went to college part-time while working for the Center, achieved degrees from Newbury College and the University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth, was appointed the organization's Executive Director, and currently serving as the Immigrants Assistance Center Inc.'s President and CEO; and

WHEREAS, Under Helena's leadership, the Immigrant's Assistance Center, Inc., rapidly grew to continue servicing the Portuguese community and expand to include new waves of immigrants such as the Hispanic community; and

WHEREAS, The strong leadership team at the Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc., has enabled the organization to expand outreach and promote the organization throughout the Commonwealth and the United States, such as having representation from the Center at the International Immigration Conference; and

WHEREAS, The Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc., has grown to include new services such as case management, workforce readiness classes, citizenship guidance, and English Language classes among others as part of the organization's strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, The Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc., serves a critical role in our community and the organization's efforts are felt throughout every aspect of our City:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby congratulates and commends the **IMMIGRANTS ASSISTANCE CENTER, INC., ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY**, thanks the Center for their dedication to helping and bettering the lives of immigrants looking to make our City their home and wishes them success in the future.

Offered by:

Ryan J. Pereira, Councillor Ward Six

Linda M. Morad, Councillor at Large

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