



City Councilor Debora Coelho
New Bedford City Council
New Bedford, MA

June 20, 2007

Dear Councilor Coelho,

Once again, thank you for participating in October 2005 Candidates' Night at Mount Carmel Parish. Our community appreciated learning your positions on important issues and how you planned to address these problems.

Our civic involvement is not limited to one evening's debate between candidates but rather an on-going exchange between our elected officials and the community. In that light, we wish to know what action has been taken regarding the important points you raised during your presentation.

Specifically:

- **Improving safety:** You stated that you would solve police contracts, reinstate gang units, reopen the North and South End police stations, make all police officers community police officers, and create a master plan that includes a formal headquarters
- **Accountability:** You stated you would review the city budget, looking especially to reduce overtime, and look at other cities for models on how to save money
- **Adult Education:** You stated you would make it as easy as possible for immigrants to learn English, especially by bringing classes into their neighborhoods
- **Snow:** You stated that you would work to replace plows lost in privatization

A brief answer to these questions – not more than one page - would be appreciated. Please reply at your earliest convenience to the Immigrant Assistance Center at the address listed above.

We plan to compile into a composite report all of the responses from the Candidates' Night participants who were elected in the November 2005 City Election.

After we have completed this report, but before it is made available to our community, we will send you a copy so that you can ensure your views and actions are accurately presented. Finally, we will translate the responses into Portuguese.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 508-996-8113.

Sincerely,

Helena Marques
Executive Director
Immigrant Assistance Center