

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

M. E. AWARENESS DAY May 12

- WHEREAS,** Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) is a severe neuroimmune disease characterized by overwhelming exhaustion, cognitive problems, pain, post-exertional relapse, immune disorders, headaches, cardiac symptoms, dizziness and balance problems, leaving many ME patients homebound or bedridden for years at a time and as many as 75% unable to work; and
- WHEREAS,** Because of stigma and lack of attention by the government and the research and medical communities, patients struggle to access appropriate medical care and rarely recover due to a lack of treatments, resulting in loss of hope and thus higher rates of suicide; and
- WHEREAS** ME afflicts 836,000 to 2.5 million Americans, 17 million people worldwide, and 52,000 in Massachusetts alone, at an annual cost to our country of \$18-24 billion dollars per year in lost productivity and medical cost; and
- WHEREAS,** Awareness of ME should lead to increased funding for research by the federal government and private entities and result in better medical care with more accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatments; and so
- NOW,
THEREFORE,** I, Mayor David Narkewicz, hereby proclaim May 12 as **M. E. Awareness Day** in Northampton in order to help spread awareness of the disease, the need for research and appropriate medical care and to support individuals and their families living with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis.



In Witness whereof, I have set my hand and imprinted
the City seal, this 13st day of October in the year 2016.

Mayor David J. Narkewicz