

Proclamation



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
National School Bus Safety Week
October 16-20, 2017**

- WHEREAS, the safety of Northampton Public School students is essential to the students' education and to the well-being of our children and their families; and
- WHEREAS, school buses and vans are the safest vehicles to transport children and more than one third of our Northampton Public School students rely on school buses and vans to get them to and from school safely; and
- WHEREAS, drivers of Northampton Public School buses and vans receive over 80 hours of training to get licensed and an additional 8 hours per year to keep our children safe on the road and are trained to watch traffic at all times and make sure traffic is stopped before letting children on and off the buses; and
- WHEREAS, students who ride Northampton Public School buses and vans are taught school bus safety by their families, drivers, and Northampton educators; and
- WHEREAS, despite the safety training and efforts of school bus and van drivers and passengers, children are most vulnerable when they are loading and off-loading school buses and vans; and
- WHEREAS, last year's National Stop Arm Survey concluded that more than 13 million stop-arm violations occur nationwide during a 180-day school year; and
- WHEREAS, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Section 14 mandates all motorists in both directions of traffic to stop for all school buses and vans with flashing red lights and stop arm extended and not proceed until the red lights are turned off and stop-arm pulled in; and
- WHEREAS, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Section 14 mandates no motorist will be within a distance of 100 feet behind a school bus or van; and
- WHEREAS, in Massachusetts, passing a stopped school bus or van with red lights flashing and stop-arm extended is a ticketable offense of no less than \$250 and no more than \$2,000; and
- WHEREAS, motorists on Northampton roads have a responsibility to ensure the safety of children who are walking, bicycling, and getting on and off school buses and vans; and
- WHEREAS, the cooperation and caution of motorists is critical to ensuring the safety of Northampton's children, and requires motorists to comply with speed limits and other traffic laws, including stopping for all school buses with flashing yellow lights; and so

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, David J. Narkewicz, Mayor of the City of Northampton, do hereby proclaim October 16-20, 2017 as **NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK**, and urge all citizens to be cognizant of this issue and do their part in keeping our neighborhoods and children safe this week and all throughout the year.

In Witness whereof, I have set my hand and imprinted the City seal, this 12th day of October in the year 2017.

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Narkewicz".

Mayor David J. Narkewicz

