

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, June 20, 2013

Upon the recommendation of City Councilor Owen Freeman-Daniels

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR JUSTICE IN GUANTÁNAMO BAY

WHEREAS the practice of holding people in the Guantánamo Bay Naval Base detention center (hereafter referred to as “Guantánamo Bay detention center”) represents the continuation of a repudiated foreign policy and stain upon the character of the United States; and

WHEREAS over 100 of the 166 remaining prisoners at the Guantánamo Bay detention center have been on hunger strike for over 98 days to protest the lack of basic human and legal rights as outlined by the U.S. Constitution and international law; and

WHEREAS 86 prisoners have been cleared for release since 2010 by an inter-agency task forceⁱ, yet continue to be detained; and

WHEREAS it is wrong for any country, for any reason, to detain someone for over 11 years and not charge him with any crime; andⁱⁱ

WHEREAS the United Nations have declared that the continued imprisonment of the Guantánamo Bay detention center prisoners is “a flagrant violation of international human rights law and in itself constitutes a form of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatmentⁱⁱⁱ”; and

WHEREAS the United Nations condemned the coercive practice of forced feedings of hunger striking prisoners of The Guantánamo Bay detention center as a form of torture and a violation of medical ethics^{iv}; and

WHEREAS residents of Northampton have long struggled to close the Guantánamo Bay detention center, from the activism of “No More Guantánamos” to hunger striking residents to acts of civil disobedience to a Northampton Proclamation denouncing the torturous conditions of Guantanamo on June 22, 2011^v; and

WHEREAS other municipalities, from the nearby Town of Amherst to the City of Berkeley, have acted forthrightly to address the injustices at Guantanamo Bay by offering to accept cleared prisoners in their communities; and

WHEREAS President Obama pledged to close the prison over 5 years ago, and recently stated that the prison is “not necessary to keep America safe. It's expensive, it's inefficient, it hurts us in terms of international standing, it lessens cooperation with our allies in counterterrorism efforts.^{vi}”; then

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton City Council calls upon our federal representative and senators to advocate and act forthrightly to see justice done in Guantánamo Bay; and

BE IT RESOLVED we call upon President Obama to maintain his pledge to close the Guantánamo Bay detention center; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Northampton opposes the continued existence of the Guantánamo Bay detention center and the violation of rule of law that it represents, and calls for all its prisoners to be charged or released; and

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the President and Attorney General of the United States, the United States Senators for Massachusetts, and the United States Representative for Massachusetts' Second District.

ⁱ Guantánamo Review Task Force , *Final Report*, January 22, 2010 <http://www.justice.gov/ag/guantanamo-review-final-review.pdf>

ⁱⁱ "Gitmo is Killing Me", New York Times, April 14, 2013 <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/15/opinion/hunger-striking-at-guantanamo-bay.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ IACHR, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, UN Rapporteur on Torture, UN Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, and UN Rapporteur on Health reiterate need to end the indefinite detention of individuals at Guatánamo Naval Base in light of current human rights crisis, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, United Nations, May 1, 2013, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13278&LangID=E>

^{iv} Ibid

^v Proclamation of the City of Northampton, "United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, June 26, 2011 <http://www.nogitmos.org/northamptonmayorissuesproclamationjune262011>

^{vi} "President Obama: Gitmo should be closed", CNN, April 30, 2013 <http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2013/04/30/president-obama-i-still-believe-gitmo-should-be-closed/?iref=allsearch>

In City Council, June 20, 2013
Passed First Reading, on a Roll Call Vote of 8 Yes,
1 No (Councilor Tacy)

Attest: May L. Medina, Clerk of Council

In City Council, June 27, 2013
Passed Second Reading, on a on a Voice Vote of 7 Yes, 1 No (Councilor Tacy),
1 Absent (Councilor Murphy)

Attest: May L. Medina, Clerk of Council

Approved: David J. Narkewicz, Mayor
Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

I hereby certify that the above Order passed the Northampton City Council on June 27, 2013.

David J. Narkewicz, Mayor approved the Order on July 1, 2013.

Attest: May L. Medina, Clerk of Council