

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE NOVEMBER 20, 2018

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton recognizes that diversity is an essential feature in our society and something that is celebrated and cherished in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton in 2005 added protection of gender identity and expression to our City ordinances, and in 2016, the Massachusetts Legislature enacted a Transgender Rights Law that guarantees equal access for all transgender people to public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, while we celebrate such long-fought victories, it is crucial to note that we have a long way to go toward full safety and equality for all.

WHEREAS, in 2017, advocates tracked the deaths of at least 29 transgender people in the United States due to fatal violence, and sadly, we have already seen 22 additional deaths due to violence against transgender individuals in 2018 including the tragic loss of Christa Leigh Steele-Knudslie from western Massachusetts- a friend to many in our community, and founder of the Miss Trans New England pageant, and an early organizer of the New England Transgender Pride March and Rally; and

WHEREAS, we join together today to remember all transgender people who have been pushed to suicide, or have been the victims of violence, or do not feel safe enough to come out publicly, or do not experience the full equality and justice that other citizens enjoy.


**NOW,
THEREFORE,** I, Mayor David J. Narkewicz, hereby do proclaim today as

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

in the City of Northampton. Let us fight hatred and phobia in every form and vow to better protect the rights of our transgender friends and neighbors so they may live life fully, productively, and without fear.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed the seal of the
City of Northampton on this 20th day of November.**




MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ