

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

MASSACHUSETTS

In the City Council, October 18th, 2018

Upon the Recommendation of Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra and Councilor Alisa F. Klein

**R-18.186 A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING NORTHAMPTON AND MASSACHUSETTS
NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN
PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION ON THE BASIS OF
GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION**

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton and the Northampton City Council have long supported transgender equality, passing a unanimous resolution on August 18, 2011 in support of the Massachusetts House Bill adding gender identity as a protected category to anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, education, public accommodations, and credit. And also unanimously passing “A Resolution to Affirm the City’s Non-discrimination Policy and in Support of the Equality of Access in Public Places” on May 19, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2017, the Northampton School Committee unanimously voted to formalize into policy its commitment to ensure for students and employees nondiscrimination on the basis of transgender or gender nonconforming status, including but not limited to “access to restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities that correspond to their gender identity;” and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate approved the addition of gender identity to the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law (M.G.L c. 272, §§ 92A, 98 and 98A) on July 8, 2016, signed into legislation by Governor Charles Baker on the same day; and

WHEREAS, the updated Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law has been in full effect since October 1, 2016 and functioning well to protect against discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the upcoming Massachusetts statewide election on November 6, 2018 includes a ballot question, Question 3, seeking to repeal the provision in the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation; and

