Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

40th Anniversary of the Northampton LGBTQ+ Pride March May 7, 2022

WHEREAS,

the rise of the Moral Majority in the late 1970s and the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 ushered in a new era of conservative political and physical attacks of women, people of color, immigrants, and lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender folks; and

WHEREAS,

in 1981, conservative members of Congress introduced proposed legislation called, "The Family Protection Act", to roll back the social progress that was made by the civil rights, feminist, and LGBTQ+ movements. This legislation specifically targeted the rights of gay and lesbian people; and

WHEREAS,

in April 1982, a group of dedicated and concerned residents organized GALA- Gay and Lesbian Activists and called for a march in downtown Northampton in opposition to the so-called "Family Protection Act" to be held on Saturday, May 15, 1982; and

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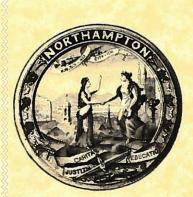
the first Northampton Pride March had just a few hundred marchers, with some of them wearing bags over their heads to hide their identities from their employers, out of fear of losing their jobs or housing; and

WHEREAS

in 2019, the last Pride Parade before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Northampton hosted over 40,000 participants. This celebration honored the diversity and contributions that our LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors have made to our community, as well as recognizing the hard-won victories like protections from discrimination in workplace and housing, as well as equal marriage, and

WHEREAS

this important anniversary must also be a time for continued and increased vigilance and activism as our LGBTQ+ community members face escalating discrimination, violence, and political efforts to roll back those hard-fought rights; and



NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2022 as the 40th Anniversary of the Northampton LGBTQ+ Pride March with the hope that we will gather again in pride next year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and imprinted the seal of the City of Northampton this 7th day of May, 2022.

Gma-Louise Sciarra, Mayor