



In the City Council, November 17th, in the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen

Upon the recommendation of Councilor Alisa F. Klein, Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, and Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

R-16.206

A RESOLUTION
DECLARING NORTHAMPTON'S COMMITMENT TO BEING A SAFE AND ACCEPTING
COMMUNITY

"This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy." – Martin Luther King Jr.¹

WHEREAS, the Northampton City Council has repeatedly asserted that the City of Northampton does not tolerate hate crimes and other expressions of hate such as in its February 21, 2013 Resolution Regarding Hate Crimes and its October 2, 2014 resolution that "condemns malicious acts that are designed to promote fear and discourage civil discourse" and "calls upon all citizens to express their courage and hope by engaging in respectful debate and discussion with one another and supporting the people who have been threatened"; and

WHEREAS, we have seen in this presidential election cycle long-existing hatred laid bare and bigotry in all its forms exposed; and

WHEREAS, in just the five days immediately after the recent presidential election on November 8, 2016, the Southern Poverty Law Center has received reports of over 300 misogynistic, racist, anti-Muslim, and anti-Semitic hate crimes and acts of violence and hatred throughout the United States;² and

WHEREAS, in the days since the presidential election, large, spray-painted racist and anti-Semitic symbols and slogans were removed from Mt. Tom in near-by Easthampton; and

¹ King Jr., Martin Luther, "I Have a Dream," speech delivered in Washington D.C., August 28, 1963

² Richard Cohen, President of the Southern Poverty Law Center on the November 14, 2016 broadcast of Democracy Now!, www.democracynow.org (November 14, 2016).

WHEREAS, the Northampton City Council believes in the rights of all people to lead lives of peace and dignity free from fear, harassment, and violence; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton City Council is adamantly committed to protecting this community's residents from racist, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic, misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic, anti-immigrant, anti-disability and anti-refugee sentiments and acts and all other targeting of residents based on their identities or perceived identities; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton City Council stands in strong opposition to the authoritarianism, white supremacist, and white nationalist beliefs, policies, and rhetoric that engender hatred; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton supports respect for civil and human rights and recognizes that pursuant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948, Article 3, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person" and Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to...degrading treatment;"

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton, Massachusetts redoubles its commitment to the values of freedom, justice, and equality that bind us as a community, and to protecting those whose security and well-being may be threatened in the current political and social climate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand in solidarity with, and advocate for the civil liberties and human rights of, every resident of Northampton regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, ability, sexual and gender identity, national origin, or citizenship, and immigration status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommit to working towards a community, country, and world that are non-discriminatory, welcoming, just, inclusive, and pluralistic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we vehemently condemn acts of vandalism, harassment, and violence that express hatred towards members of our community and beyond;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Northampton is a hate-free zone in which hate crimes and discriminatory actions will not be tolerated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all members of our community to engage in positive community-building and take the necessary and courageous steps to prevent and respond to discrimination and hatred whenever and wherever they see it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we are committed to holding our state and federal leaders accountable to the values and commitments expressed in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the President of the United States, Barack Obama; U.S. President-Elect Donald Trump; U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey; U.S. Representatives Richard Neal and Jim McGovern; Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker; Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey; Massachusetts Senate President Stanley Rosenberg; Massachusetts State Representative Peter Kocot; and the Northampton Police and Fire Departments.

In City Council, November 17, 2016
Passed First Reading, on a Roll Call Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No
Attest: Samuel L. Poney, Clerk of Council

In City Council, December 1, 2016
Passed Second Reading, on a Roll Call Vote of 9 Yes, 0 Not
Attest: Samuel L. Poney, Clerk of Council

Approved: David J. Narkewicz, Mayor

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled

I hereby certify that the above Resolution passed the Northampton City Council on December 1, 2016
David J. Narkewicz, Mayor approved the Resolution on December 2, 2016

Attest: Samuel L. Poney, Clerk of Council