

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH May 19, 2017

WHEREAS, Millions of Americans live with the burden of a mental health problem with conditions such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and bipolar disorder drain every part of a person's life; and

WHEREAS, Although the Affordable Care Act expands mental health benefits for millions and prevents insurers from denying coverage because of a pre-existing condition, less than half of children and adults with diagnosable mental health problems receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, The passage of the American Health Care Act in the United States House of Representatives would cause millions of Americans to lose access to health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, The Mental Health America organization in 1956 commissioned a bell cast from actual shackles and chains used to restrain those with mental illness. Today the bell stands as the national symbol of the mental health movement and it is rung yearly in remembrance. First Churches rang its bells at noon on May 1st to kick off this year's Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, We know that treatment, education, and peer support are all important in caring for our family, friends, and neighbors with mental illness; and mental health services deserve parity with other types of medical care, we recognize the valuable role advocacy plays to bring awareness and attention to the need for services and support; and

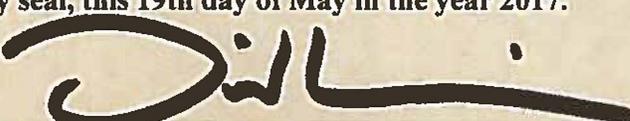
WHEREAS, We especially salute those living with mental illness and their families and friends for having the courage to tell their stories, share success, and being vital members of our community; and

WHEREAS, In recognition today's effort I issue this proclamation so that together we may shine a light on these issues, stand with those in need, and redouble our efforts to address mental health problems in our community.

**NOW,
THEREFORE,** I, Mayor David Narkewicz, hereby proclaim May 2017 as **Mental Health Awareness Month** in Northampton. For neighbors and their families who live with this challenge, we support events and programs that educate us about the diagnosis, treatment, and recovery of mental illness.



In Witness whereof, I have set my hand and imprinted
the City seal, this 19th day of May in the year 2017.



Mayor David J. Narkewicz