



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City of Northampton

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Human Rights Commission Resolution supporting Northampton's recommitment to Sanctuary City status and the values of a Democratic nation

Whereas, in 2014, Mayor David J. Narkewicz adopted an Executive Order declaring Northampton a sanctuary city insofar as its police force would not “honor and enforce any detainer request from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that is non-criminal” and also committed to city policies and procedures that “ensure the highest level of public safety while building trust between law enforcement and community residents and visitors,” and that it will be “the continuing policy of the City of Northampton to assure equal, just, and fair treatment of all person who live in and visit the city;” and

Whereas, on Nov. 20, 2014, the City Council unanimously endorsed the Mayor's Executive Order with a resolution stating the city “has been, and continues to be enriched by the contributions of community members who have traveled from all points of the globe to make their homes here;” and

Whereas, the City Council on Nov. 17 endorsed a resolution declaring its commitment “to protecting this community's residents from racist, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic, misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic, anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiment and acts and all other targeting of residents based on their identities or perceived identities;” and

Whereas, the Northampton Human Rights Commission has thrown wholehearted support behind the city's commitment to resettle refugees through a program of the Catholic Charities; and

Whereas, the Northampton Human Rights Commission condemns bigotry in all its forms and supports civil liberties of people without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, ability, citizenship or immigration status; and

Whereas, the President-elect while campaigning repeatedly espoused beliefs and support of policies that would demean, target, discriminate against and endanger people from all of those groups and more.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Northampton Human Rights Commission stands solidly behind the Mayor in his efforts to maintain the city's status as a Sanctuary City even if it means losing federal funding; and

Be it further resolved that because the loss of said funds could endanger populations of people who are particularly vulnerable, we encourage our city leadership to make every effort to find alternate sources of money to make up for such losses; and

Be it further resolved that we implore federal leadership to not withhold federal funds that are a

vital part of the safety net within our city; and

Be it further resolved that the Northampton Human Rights Commission fully agrees with the City Council's statement that our city "has been, and continues to be enriched by the contributions of community members who have traveled from all points of the globe to make their homes here;" and

Be it further resolved that the Northampton Human Rights Commission articulates its commitment to welcoming any residents who feel targeted or unsafe based on their identities or perceived identities to share their experiences with the Commission so it may offer support and guidance of where to get help; and

Be it further resolved that the Northampton Human Rights Commission is guided in its work by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 by the United Nations and now hereby recommits to being a city body dedicated to education about the values and ideals espoused by that document; and

Be it further resolved that the Northampton Human Rights Commission stands behind the City Council's resolution that rejects authoritarianism and white supremacy and "redoubles its commitments to the values of freedom, justice and equality that bind us as a community and to protecting those whose security and wellbeing may be threatened in the current political and social climate."

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to President 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; the Northampton City Council and Mayor David Narkewicz.

Approved by the Northampton Human Rights Commission on this day, Nov. 30, 2016