



City of Northampton MASSACHUSETTS

R-16.077 A RESOLUTION

TO AFFIRM THE CITY'S NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND IN SUPPORT OF EQUALITY OF ACCESS IN PUBLIC PLACES

- WHEREAS, The City of Northampton is guided by a fundamental and compelling interest to protect the civil rights of all its citizens and visitors, support public policies that prohibit unjust discrimination, and promote a society characterized by freedom and equality; and
- WHEREAS, A free and equal society is one in which all people may access public places, including commercial space such as restaurants, hotels, and theaters as well as public space such as municipal buildings, parks and public transportation, among others, on equal terms; and
- WHEREAS, In 2011 the Massachusetts legislature extended protections against discrimination on the basis of gender identity in matters of housing, employment, credit and education, but not in matters relative to public accommodations such as those described above; and
- WHEREAS, Today, legislation currently before the legislature would close this gap in state law and extend such protections to all people to prohibit discrimination in matters of public accommodations on the basis of gender identity and guarantee equal access to public places regardless of gender identity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton, Massachusetts

1. Affirms that it is the policy of the City of Northampton that no person shall unjustly discriminate against any person belonging to a protected category, including age, ancestry or national origin, color, creed, family or marital status, gender identity, genetic information, mental or physical ability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status or veteran status, relative to any essential public matter involving goods, services, or access that are generally available to all people, including education, employment, health care, housing, municipal services and public accommodations.

2. Affirms that it is the policy of the City of Northampton that no one shall refuse to grant admission to and full enjoyment of any public accommodation within the City of Northampton to a person consistent with that person's gender identity.
3. Supports the expeditious enactment of state legislation to extend protections against discrimination in matters of public accommodation on the basis of gender identity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to Governor Charles Baker, Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo, State Representative Peter Kocot, as well as Northampton's federal representatives.

In City Council, May 5, 2016

Passed First Reading, on Roll Call Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No

Attest: *Pamela H. Power*, Clerk of Council

In City Council, May 19, 2016

Passed Second Reading, on Voice Vote of 8 Yes, 1 Vacant

Attest: *Pamela H. Power*, Clerk of Council

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled

I hereby certify that the above Resolution passed the Northampton City Council on May 19, 2016

David J. Narkewicz, Mayor approved the Resolution on May 20, 2016

Attest: *Pamela H. Power*, Clerk of Council