

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS**

In the City Council, November 16th, 2017

Upon the Recommendation of Councilors Ryan R. O'Donnell and Maureen T. Carney.

**R-17.419
A RESOLUTION**

**IN SUPPORT OF A \$15 MINIMUM WAGE
IN MASSACHUSETTS**

- WHEREAS, Northampton's local economy depends on many low-wage, hourly workers who are struggling to meet to their basic needs, including many restaurant workers earning less than the full minimum wage; and
- WHEREAS, The median rent in Northampton is about \$975 monthly, or \$11,700 annually, which is over 50% of the \$22,880 annual income of a full time worker; and
- WHEREAS, Due to legislation enacted in 2014, the state minimum wage rose from \$8 to \$11 by 2017 in annual dollar increases; and
- WHEREAS, New York and California as well as cities such as Seattle and Washington, DC have recently enacted plans to raise their minimum wage to \$15; and
- WHEREAS, The sub-minimum wage for tipped workers is currently \$3.75 an hour in Massachusetts; and
- WHEREAS, California, Minnesota and Maine have eliminated the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers, and made it equal to the minimum wage; and
- WHEREAS, Northampton adopted a Fair Minimum Wage Ordinance (§5-6 of the Code of Ordinances) that requires employees of the city's legislative and executive branches to be paid at least the state minimum wage; and
- WHEREAS, In Massachusetts, H.2365 and S.1004 would raise the state minimum wage by a dollar a year over 4 years until it reached \$15, after which it would be automatically adjusted to rise with cost of living increases; and
- WHEREAS, These bills would also increase the sub-minimum wage over a period of 8 years until it matched the minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, In the Northampton area, the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center estimates that 30% of wage earners, or 19,517 people, would benefit from increasing the minimum wage to \$15 by 2022; and

WHEREAS, Raising the minimum wage boosts the local economy by giving low wage workers more take home pay to spend locally;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council supports an incremental increase of the minimum wage to \$15 and indexing the minimum wage to future increases in the cost of living.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to accomplish this, the City Council supports legislation in the spirit of H.2365 and S.1004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Governor, the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, Rep. Donohue and Sen. Friedman as well as Rep. Peter Kocot.