

# Proclamation



## CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS




### 2020: "THANK YOU DALAI LAMA" YEAR

- WHEREAS,** since 1959, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has single-handedly laid the foundation for what has widely become recognized today as one of the most successful democratic refugee communities in the world; and
- WHEREAS,** the principal commitments of His Holiness the Dalai Lama are: promotion of human values of compassion, forgiveness, tolerance and self-discipline; religious harmony and understanding among the world's major religious traditions; preservation of the rich cultural heritage of Tibet and Tibet's environment, and the revival of ancient Indian knowledge based on the Nalanda tradition; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1989 His Holiness the Dalai Lama received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his long standing commitment to nonviolence, peace and willingness to seek reconciliation with China despite China's brutal occupation of Tibet; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2007, the United States conferred the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest civilian awards, upon His Holiness the Dalai Lama in recognition of his contribution to Tibet and humanity; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's untiring efforts for the past 61 years that have come to fruition with the successful establishment of the Tibetan refugee community in exile, introduction of a democratic system of administration, revival of Tibetan language, religion and culture, provision of modern education to Tibetan children and advancement of the Tibet cause in the global arena, the Regional Tibetan Association of Massachusetts will observe the year 2020 as the "Thank You Dalai Lama" year starting with the observation of the 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day on March 10, 2020.
- THEREFORE,** I, David J. Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton, do hereby proclaim March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to be the beginning of the "Thank You Dalai Lama" year and call upon all of the citizens to learn about His Holiness the Dalai Lama and express gratitude for his promotion of compassion, forgiveness, tolerance and his longstanding commitment to peace and nonviolence in light of the ongoing occupation of Tibet by China.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and have imprinted the seal of the city on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.**

  
Mayor David J. Narkewicz