

# Proclamation



## CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Northampton LGBTQ+ Pride March May 7, 2022

**WHEREAS,** the rise of the Moral Majority in the late 1970s and the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 ushered in a new era of conservative political and physical attacks of women, people of color, immigrants, and lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender folks; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1981, conservative members of Congress introduced proposed legislation called, “The Family Protection Act”, to roll back the social progress that was made by the civil rights, feminist, and LGBTQ+ movements. This legislation specifically targeted the rights of gay and lesbian people; and

**WHEREAS,** in April 1982, a group of dedicated and concerned residents organized GALA- Gay and Lesbian Activists and called for a march in downtown Northampton in opposition to the so-called “Family Protection Act” to be held on Saturday, May 15, 1982; and

**WHEREAS,** the first Northampton Pride March had just a few hundred marchers, with some of them wearing bags over their heads to hide their identities from their employers, out of fear of losing their jobs or housing; and

**WHEREAS** in 2019, the last Pride Parade before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Northampton hosted over 40,000 participants. This celebration honored the diversity and contributions that our LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors have made to our community, as well as recognizing the hard-won victories like protections from discrimination in workplace and housing, as well as equal marriage, and

**WHEREAS** this important anniversary must also be a time for continued and increased vigilance and activism as our LGBTQ+ community members face escalating discrimination, violence, and political efforts to roll back those hard-fought rights; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2022 as the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Northampton LGBTQ+ Pride March** with the hope that we will gather again in pride next year.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and imprinted the seal of the City of Northampton this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.*



  
Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor