

**City of Northampton**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, October 2, 2014*

**Upon the recommendation of Councilors William Dwight, Jesse Adams and Marianne LaBarge**

**RESOLUTION**

*Whereas:* The most elemental tenet of a successful and just community is the necessity for people to live securely and to respect differences.

*And whereas:* The ability of a community to thrive and flourish is threatened when violence or the threat of violence is inflicted on any citizen or citizens because of their identity and/or how they are identified by others.

*And whereas:* Recent acts of vandalism in Northampton have been committed upon emblems of distinct political cultures i.e.: The theft of the rainbow flag from Jackson Street School and the attempted burning of the Israeli flag at Congregation B'nai Israel.

*And whereas:* Both of these institutions strive to promote open, respectful discussion of complicated and challenging issues.

*And whereas:* These acts of vandalism are expressions of contempt and are implicit and actual violence.

*And whereas:* These acts are an anathema to the citizens of Northampton and are counter to the goodness to which they aspire.

*Now therefore be it resolved:* That the City Council of Northampton vehemently condemns these recent criminal acts and all other malicious actions that are designed to promote fear and discourage civil discourse.

*And be it further resolved that:* The City Council of Northampton calls upon all citizens to express their courage and hope by engaging in respectful debate and discussion with one another and by supporting the people who have been threatened.