

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

International Overdose Awareness Day August 31st 2018

WHEREAS, Opioid overdose are now the leading cause of death for people under the age of fifty with a death occurring every six minutes; and

WHEREAS, Hampshire County experienced 22 overdose deaths with seven taking place in Northampton in the first seven months of 2018; From January to April of 2018 overdose fatalities have risen 266% from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, Deaths from drug overdoses are preventable and yet throughout Hampshire County people continue to die; Substance use has affected many Hampshire County families, friends, colleagues and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, In Northampton, law enforcement and first responders have the authority to carry and administer the lifesaving drug Naloxone; and

WHEREAS, The City of Northampton is developing a more robust database tool aiding in accurate analysis, to combat the opioid overdose epidemic; and

WHEREAS, The City of Northampton is dedicated to raising awareness of overdoses and reducing the stigma of a drug-related death; and

WHEREAS, The City acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died as a result of a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, The City will continue to commit to provide staff and resources to support overdose prevention and harm reduction strategies, and so

NOW,
THEREFORE, I, David J. Narkewicz, Mayor of the City of Northampton, do hereby proclaim August 31st

International Overdose Awareness Day

in the City of Northampton and encourage citizens to be part of the solution and help spread the message that tragic overdose deaths are preventable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Northampton.



Mayor David J. Narkewicz