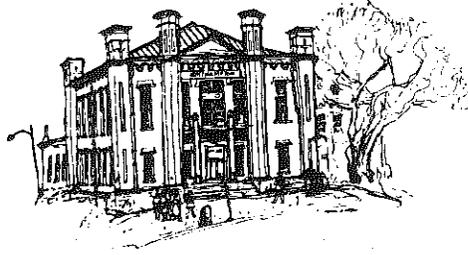


Proclamation



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH MAY 3, 2016

WHEREAS: The family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self- esteem and support, is the very foundation of our community; and

WHEREAS: In the Commonwealth there are 8,891 children younger than 18 years old in foster care; and

WHEREAS: In Northampton, there are children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurturing of a foster family; and

WHEREAS: Foster families, who open their homes and hearts and offer help to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children and families heal, reconnect and launch children into successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS: Dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families; and

WHEREAS: There are numerous individuals and public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children leaving foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents;

NOW,

THEREFORE, I, Mayor David J. Narkewicz, do hereby proclaim May 2016 as Foster Care Month in Northampton. I urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will help change a life for children and youth in foster care.



In witness whereof, I have set my hand and imprinted the seal of the City, this 3rd day of May, 2016.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, positioned above a horizontal line.

**David J. Narkewicz
Mayor, City of Northampton**