

# CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council,*

July 7, 2011

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Upon the recommendation of the Northampton Human Rights Commission

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## **Resolution in Support of An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights**

**WHEREAS,** The City of Northampton currently protects transgender people on the basis of gender identity and gender expression in the city's nondiscrimination ordinance and has done so through ordinance since 2005; and

**WHEREAS,** Massachusetts transgender youth, adults, and their families continue to face pervasive discrimination and violence because of widespread prejudice; and

**WHEREAS,** The 2009 National Transgender Discrimination Survey administered by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force found that among the Massachusetts transgender participants, 76% reported experiencing harassment or mistreatment on the job, 20% had lost a job, and 39% were not hired because of their gender identity and expression; and

**WHEREAS,** Likely due to this discrimination, survey respondents experienced poverty at over three times the rate of the general population and that 15% of respondents had a household income of \$10,000 or less, as compared to 4% of the general population; and

**WHEREAS,** The same survey found that for transgender youth in K-12 schools in Massachusetts, 79% had experienced harassment, 31% were physically assaulted, and 11% left school all together because of the harassment; and

**WHEREAS,** The same survey also found that Massachusetts transgender youth and adults experienced discrimination in public accommodations and services, including from government agencies, hotels, restaurants, buses, and airports, and that 58% had been verbally harassed in a place of public accommodation or service, and 22% were denied equal treatment by a government agency or official; and

**Resolution in Support of An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights *continued***

**WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts bill “An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights” HB 502/SB 764 adds the categories of “gender identity and expression” to the state’s hate crimes and nondiscrimination laws in employment, housing, education, public accommodations, and credit; and

**WHEREAS,** The bill ensures that Massachusetts laws explicitly protect all people from discrimination and violence because of their gender identity and expression.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

That the Northampton City Council goes on record in support of “An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights” HB 502/SB 764 and urges the Western Massachusetts delegation of the Massachusetts Legislature and the leadership of the legislature to support the timely passage of this bill.