



City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In the City Council, May 6, 2021

Upon the Recommendation of: Councilor Karen Foster
 Councilor Marianne LaBarge
 Councilor Rachel Maiore
 Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra

R-21.266 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WORKERS OF THE HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

WHEREAS: the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* has been an institution in our community for nearly 235 years; and

WHEREAS: the *Gazette* has tirelessly chronicled the triumphs, tragedies and history of the people of the Connecticut River Valley, keeping the public informed and proving itself invaluable in exposing injustice in Northampton and beyond; and

WHEREAS: local news is critical to a working democracy, ensuring communities have accurate information, uplifting marginalized voices, and providing crucial oversight over local governance; and

WHEREAS: Northampton's municipal government relies on the *Gazette* to communicate issues, events, projects and public notices to the public; and

WHEREAS: the *Gazette* is made by its workers and this Council appreciates how they have persevered through a global pandemic, despite losing over half their staff, to keep the Valley informed of vital information, and in the early stages of the pandemic making the important decision to provide coronavirus-related news to our community at no charge to readers; and

WHEREAS: the *Gazette's* unionized workers have been in contract negotiations with the *Gazette's* parent company, Newspapers of New England, for nearly two years; and

WHEREAS: the *Gazette's* workers deserve protections against the outsourcing of their work as well as a contract that provides for a fair wage with cost of living increases and remains intact no matter who owns the newspaper; and

WHEREAS: the *Gazette's* workers who were laid-off deserve the opportunity to be rehired if their positions return to the paper;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northampton City Council stands in solidarity with the workers of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, and asks Newspapers of New England to swiftly bargain a contract that improves the well-being of its workers, which will strengthen the newspaper and help it continue for years to come. We call on Newspapers of New England to invest in the *Gazette* and its workers, and to make a commitment to local ownership;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northampton City Council recognizes the importance of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* to our region, and encourages our local community to support the *Gazette* to help maintain the financial viability of this critical source of local news;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall send a copy of this Resolution to U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, U.S. Representative Jim McGovern, Senator Jo Comerford, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, Newspaper of New England President and CEO Aaron Julien, *Daily Hampshire Gazette* Publisher Shawn Palmer, Editor-in-Chief Joan Livingston and the Pioneer Valley News Guild.