

Proclamation



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**M. E. AWARENESS DAY
May 12, 2018**

WHEREAS, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.) is a highly debilitating disease with neurological, immunological and energy production impairments that severely disables adults and children alike, leaving 25% of M.E. patients homebound or bedridden for years at a time, many too sick to care for themselves, and as many as 75% unable to work; and

WHEREAS, Because of stigma and lack of attention by the government and the research and medical communities, patients struggle to access appropriate medical care and rarely recover due to a lack of treatments, resulting in a loss of hope and thus higher rates of suicide; and

WHEREAS, M.E. afflicts 1 million to 2.5 million Americans, 17 to 20 million people worldwide, and **21,000-52,000 in Massachusetts alone**, at an annual cost our country of \$18-24 billion per year in lost productivity and medical costs; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 75-85% of people with M.E. are women; and

WHEREAS, Awareness of M.E. should lead to increased funding for research by the federal government and private entities and result in better medical care with more accurate diagnoses and appropriate treatments; and so

**NOW,
THEREFORE,** I, Mayor David J. Narkewicz, hereby proclaim the 12th of May, 2018 as **M. E. Awareness Day** in Northampton in order to help spread awareness of the disease, the need for research and appropriate medical and to support individuals and their families living with M.E. (Myalgic Ecephalomyelitis)



*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and imprinted
the City seal, this 12th day of May in the year 2018.*

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David J. Narkewicz".

David J. Narkewicz, Mayor