

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Quock Walker Day Massachusetts Emancipation Day July 8, 2024

WHEREAS, today, the City of Northampton pays tribute to Quock Walker, and celebrates the 241st anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Quock Walker, a self-emancipated slave from Barre, took his case to the Massachusetts Supreme Court and emerged victorious; and

WHEREAS, on this day in 1783, the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court declared that, “the idea of slavery is inconsistent with our own conduct and Constitution;” and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Massachusetts legislature passed a bill, signed into law by Governor Charles D. Baker, Jr. making July 8 Massachusetts Emancipation Day, also known as Quock Walker Day, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and so

NOW,


THEREFORE, I, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra do hereby proclaim July 8, 2024, to be:

Quock Walker Day and Massachusetts Emancipation Day



On this day, we celebrate the determination and persistence of Quock Walker and his remarkable contribution to abolishing slavery in Massachusetts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and have imprinted the Seal of the City of Northampton on this eighth day of July 2024.


Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra