

PROCLAMATION



City of Northampton
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Hampshire Pride March & Celebration

May 3, 2025

WHEREAS, in 1981, conservative members of Congress introduced proposed legislation called, "The Family Protection Act," to roll back the social progress that was made by the civil rights, feminist, and LGBTQIA+ movements. This legislation specifically targeted the rights of gay and lesbian people; and

WHEREAS, in April 1982, a group of dedicated and concerned residents organized "GALA" (Gay and Lesbian Activists) and called for a march in downtown Northampton in opposition to the so-called "Family Protection Act" to be held on Saturday, May 15, 1982; and

WHEREAS, the first Northampton Pride March had just a few hundred marchers, with some of them wearing bags over their heads to hide their identities from their employers out of fear of losing their jobs or housing; and

WHEREAS, Pride events are an important time for celebration, as well as continued vigilance and activism - especially since our LGBTQIA+ community members face increasing discrimination, violence, and political efforts to roll back those hard-fought rights; and

WHEREAS, in the period of 2024-2025, a significant portion of the LGBTQIA+ community in the United States reported experiencing discrimination, with 36% of LGBTQIA+ adults experiencing discrimination in the past year and there are increasing legislative attacks on human rights; and

WHEREAS, as we come together and celebrate today, we also stand firmly rooted in solidarity and unwavering commitment to fight for and protect each other's rights, art, expression, health, well-being, and hearts; and so

NOW,
THEREFORE, I, Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor of the City of Northampton, do hereby proclaim
May 3rd as

Hampshire Pride Day



and welcome this incredible show of LGBTQIA+ pride in Northampton. Let us all honor and celebrate the history, diversity, and contributions our LGBTQIA+ friends and neighbors have made to our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and imprinted the seal of the City of Northampton on this 3rd day of May in the year 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina-Louise Sciarra".

Gina-Louise Sciarra
Mayor