

PROCLAMATION



City of Northampton
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Proclamation Honoring The Life And Legacy Of His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama And Observing The Year Of Compassion

July 1, 2025

- WHEREAS, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, has dedicated his life to promoting peace, compassion, and universal responsibility, earning worldwide recognition as a tireless advocate for human rights, democracy, religious freedom, and environmental protection; and
- WHEREAS, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his steadfast commitment to nonviolence and dialogue in resolving conflicts, particularly in advocating for the rights and freedoms of the Tibetan people; and
- WHEREAS, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's four principal commitments have been a guiding force in advancing the principles of human values, nonviolence, interfaith harmony, and environmental sustainability, inspiring countless individuals around the world; and
- WHEREAS, to honor the life and legacy of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the Central Tibetan Administration and the global Tibetan diaspora will observe his 90th birth anniversary as a "Year of Compassion," from July 6, 2025, to July 5, 2026, through a series of cultural celebrations, exhibitions, public talks, and conferences highlighting His Holiness's enduring contributions to humanity, compassion, and world peace; and
- WHEREAS, the people of the City of Northampton recognize and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to global peace, humanitarian efforts, environmental protection, and the betterment of humanity; and
- WHEREAS, the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020, signed into law by the United States, reaffirms that the selection of Tibetan Buddhist leaders, including a future Dalai Lama, should be determined solely by the Tibetan Buddhist community without interference from any government, particularly the People's Republic of China; and
- WHEREAS, Tibetan Buddhists believe in the sacred tradition of reincarnation, and the Dalai Lama has stated unequivocally that only he, in consultation with the Tibetan Buddhist community, holds the spiritual authority to determine whether he will reincarnate and under what circumstances; and
- WHEREAS, the people of the City of Northampton stands firmly in support of human rights, religious freedom, and the self-determination of peoples, including the right of the Tibetan people to preserve their religious and cultural heritage free from political interference; and

NOW,
THEREFORE,

I, Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor of the City of Northampton, do hereby proclaim the period from July 6, 2025 - July 5, 2026 as

The Year of Compassion

in honor of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's 90th birthday, and proclaim July 6, 2025, the 90th birthday of His Holiness, as the Day of Compassion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and imprinted the seal of the City of Northampton on this 1st day of July in the year 2025.




Gina-Louise Sciarra
Mayor