

Proclamation



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK
Supporting Families, Changing Futures
May 6-12, 2018

- WHEREAS,** the citizens of Northampton value their health and mental health and that of their families; therefore, they are proud to support observances such as Children's Mental Health Week; and
- WHEREAS,** one in five children has a diagnosable mental health disorder and one-half of all lifetime instances of mental illness begin before age 14; and even some children and youth with the most intense needs and some who are insured may not receive services; and
- WHEREAS** children and youth with mental health needs in elementary, middle and high school are more likely to be bullied, absent, suspended, expelled or fail to graduate; and
- WHEREAS** learning to recognize the early warning signs of mental health needs and where to obtain the necessary support, assistance and treatment gives children and youth better opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and
- WHEREAS,** the participation and partnership of family members in the assessment and treatment of children and youth is essential to positive outcomes; and
- WHEREAS,** our nation's future depends on the health and well-being of its families and their children; and
- WHEREAS,** Children's Mental Health Week was developed by families of children with emotional, behavioral and mental health needs, to focus on the needs of their children and families; in celebrating this year's theme: "Supporting Families, Changing Futures" it is fitting to increase public awareness among all Northampton citizens of this important issue;

NOW,

THEREFORE I, David J. Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton, do hereby proclaim May 6th-12th as **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK** in our city. I urge residents and all organizations interested in meeting each child's mental health needs to unite during this week in the observance of such exercises as will make clear to our community the fundamental necessity of a year-round program for children and youth with mental health needs and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and imprinted the seal of the City of Northampton, this 6th day of May, in the year 2018.



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

David J. Narkewicz, Mayor