

Town of



Amherst Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

Select Board
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PROCLAMATION OF 2017 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Whereas, Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10th. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In Amherst, we again celebrate with a reading of the Declaration of Human Rights this Sunday, December 10th on the Common at four o'clock in the afternoon.

And whereas, in the past year, residents of the Town of Amherst have had ample and proud opportunity to express our belief in and commitment to protecting the Human Rights we all share by adopting a series of actions that demonstrate the values we hold as a community.

Whereas on December 5, 2016, the Select Board, at the request of the Human Rights Commission and in recognition of Town Meeting action in 2012, proclaimed that, to the extent permissible by law, the Town and its officials and employees shall not participate in Federal enforcement programs relating to immigration enforcement

Whereas, on January 30, 2017 the Town Manager, School Superintendent and Police Chief issued a joint statement reaffirming that Amherst is a welcoming community and that the Town upholds the integral and foundational American principals that the United States is a nation of the indigenous and the immigrant and should continue to welcome new immigrants to our great nation and to our community. And further, that as public officials, it is their duty to use legal and moral authority to protect all members of the community no matter their race or color, gender, physical or mental ability, religion, socio economic status, ethnic or national origin, affectional or sexual preference, gender identity or expression, genetic information, lifestyle, age or immigration status, and to foster a community that is free of fear, intimidation and violence,.

Whereas, on May 8, 2017, the Town of Amherst declared itself a Safe Community through adoption of a Sanctuary Community Bylaw at Annual Town Meeting by an overwhelming 165-4 majority. The Bylaw limits police investigatory authority based on immigration status, prohibits police detentions based on civil immigration detainer requests or ICE administrative warrants, and requires reports of the number of civil immigration detainer requests lodged with the Town and the Town's response to the requests. The Bylaw, adopted under Article 29 of the Annual Town Meeting, affirms that Amherst is a welcoming town and seeks to ensure public safety and trust between law enforcement and all members of the Amherst community. In November, 2017, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Attorney General agreed and approved the Town Bylaw.

Whereas on May 15, 2017, Annual Town Meeting voted an overwhelming majority of 153-4 in favor of authorizing the Select Board to file with the Legislature a request for a special act to authorize local voting rights for legal permanent residents residing in Amherst, so that residents may vote in local elections and be elected to local offices in the community in which they live.

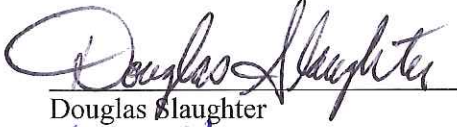
All of these actions have sought to reinforce the fundamental proposition stated in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human rights- that each one of us -- everywhere and at all times -- is entitled to the full range of human rights, and that it's everyone's responsibility to uphold them. They bind us together as a global community. Each one of us can and needs to make a difference.

This brings us to remind everyone to take a ½ hour of your day on Sunday December 10 at 4pm to join the Amherst Human Rights Commission and local chapter of Amnesty International in a community reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You will be so glad that you did.


BE IT RESOLVED, that the Select Board of the Town of Amherst, does hereby proclaim Sunday, **December 10, 2017 as HUMAN RIGHTS DAY** in Amherst and the Select Board encourages all Amherst citizens to be mindful of human rights principles and urges all municipal, state, federal, and international bodies to incorporate these principles into their practices, laws and policies.

Voted and signed this 4th day of December, 2017.

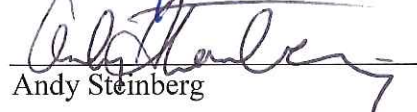
Amherst Select Board



Douglas Slaughter

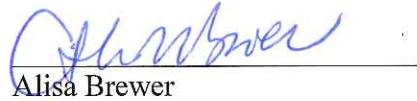


Connie Kruger



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