RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF “YES” ON BALLOT QUESTION 3
Councilors Owen Zaret, Margaret Conniff, Thomas Peake and Dan Carey

WHEREAS: On November 6, 2018 voters in the City of Easthampton and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will vote on Question 3, which will determine the status of the Massachusetts anti-discrimination public accommodations law passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2016; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts leads the way on equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Bay Staters; and

WHEREAS: The Pioneer Valley is recognized nationally for setting the example for LGBTQ equality

WHEREAS: The 2016 public accommodations protections were another step toward equality for all under the law, banning discrimination against transgender people in schools, parks, restaurants, libraries, hotels and all other accommodations; and

WHEREAS: The right to use the locker room, restroom and other facilities that affirm one’s gender identity is an essential right unnoticed by most, but which is a part of full citizenship for members of our community who are transgender and non-binary; and

WHEREAS: The public accommodations protections are supported by supermajorities of the State Legislature, police chiefs statewide, Women’s Bar Association of Massachusetts, AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Teachers Association, and others; and

WHEREAS: 18 states, Washington DC and more than 200 cities and towns have passed laws protecting transgender people in public spaces.

WHEREAS: In all states and cities and towns with laws protecting transgender people from discrimination, no problems with abuse or safety have occurred.

WHEREAS: The Easthampton City Council has set prior precedent through resolution to not condone or tolerate any form of discrimination on the basis of gender identity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Members of the Easthampton City Council declare their support for a YES vote on Question 3 to retain the ban on discrimination in public accommodations and affirm the Council’s support for the equal rights of transgender people in our community.

Unanimously approved by the Easthampton City Council on October 3, 2018.