

# CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

January 30, 2017

## **RESOLUTION CONFIRMING FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN NEWBURYPORT'S COMMITMENT TO CIVIL RIGHTS, AND GRATITUDE TO ITS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, Newburyport's formal commitment to civil rights predates both the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 and the United States Constitution of 1789, through endorsement by its delegates of *The Essex Result*, dated April 29, 1778, drafted by Newburyport jurist Theophilus Parsons, and providing, in part:

"All men are born equally free. The rights they possess at their births are equal, and of the same kind;"

"Over the class of unalienable rights the supreme power hath no control, and they ought to be clearly defined and ascertained in a BILL OF RIGHTS, previous to the ratification of any constitution;" and

"[The committee] aimed that all the members of the state should enjoy political liberty, and that their civil liberties should have equal care taken of them – in fine, that they should be a free and an happy people;"

WHEREAS, Newburyport native William Lloyd Garrison, once unpopular in his hometown but whose statue stands in honor outside our City Hall, advocated tirelessly for the equality of all Americans, men and women, for which history has vindicated him;

WHEREAS, through our nation's wars, Newburyport residents have pledged, and many have sacrificed, their lives to combat tyranny, end slavery, and protect civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, the Newburyport Code provides that "It is the policy of the City of Newburyport to promote and support a sense of welcome, inclusion, and worth for all and the elimination of prejudice, intolerance, discrimination, and acts of hate in our community," and establishes a Human Rights Commission to further such policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Newburyport City Council confirms its faith and confidence in our city's commitment to civil rights, as well as its gratitude to the Newburyport Human Rights Commission as it works to ensure that our commitment benefits all residents.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Councillor Edward C. Cameron, Jr.

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Councillor Jared J. Eigerman

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Councillor Bruce L. Vogel