

July 10, 2021

Council President Jared Eigerman
Newburyport City Council
Mayor Donna Holaday
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Council President Eigerman, Members of the Newburyport City Council and Mayor Holaday,

The Central Congregational Church requests permission to paint the crosswalk at the corner of Pleasant Street and Titcomb Street in rainbow colors, similar to the crosswalk nearest to Newburyport City Hall.

We request permission to paint the sidewalk ourselves with paint provided by the city or that we purchase with guidance from the city. Street closings will be necessary to perform the painting. We plan to utilize a template similar to the crosswalk in front of City Hall, remaining compliant with visibility requirements while also demonstrating the feeling of inclusion we strive to communicate to the community. We have contacted the owners of Changing Tides Cafe (across Pleasant Street from the Church) and they are in full support of our proposal.

In recent years, municipalities around the world and the U.S. have installed rainbow crosswalks. Examples include Taipei, Tel Aviv, Toronto, Seattle, Philadelphia.

Locally, communities including Arlington, Brookline, Cambridge, Great Barrington, Northampton, Provincetown and Salem have them. In fact, Newburyport's 1st Rainbow Crosswalk is just down the street in front of City Hall. We believe this additional rainbow crosswalk will complement the others, adding to the feeling of inclusion in our city.

The Human Rights Commission supports this crosswalk proposal, if it meets with your approval. We were delighted to hear from the HRC that so many in our community support of rainbow crosswalks including the Newburyport Clergy Association, the Newburyport Human Rights Commission, DEI Alliance, Anti-Racism Affinity Group, Women's Huddle, Indivisible-RISE, the Governors Academy Family DEI Committee, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Old South Presbyterian Church, First Congregational Church of Rowley, Peoples UMC, Newburyport/Merrimacport UMC, First Congregational Church of Georgetown, First Religious Society UU Church, East Parish UMC, Main Street Congregational Church Amesbury, Belleville Congregational Church, and Central Congregational Church. Additionally, 27 local businesses and 378 people have registered support for this initiative (233 Newburyport adults, 65 students and 80 adults from neighboring communities).

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing your response. Thank you for all of your efforts in helping make Newburyport a more welcoming and inclusive community for all its residents and visitors.

Sincerely Yours,

Jean Copelin and Sarah Seamans
Co- Chairs of the Central Congregational Church Board of Deacons
14 Titcomb Street, Newburyport, MA