



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Easthampton Municipal Building
50 Payson Ave., Ste. 100
Easthampton, Massachusetts 01027-2260
Telephone #: (413) 529-1400, ext. 460
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**Resolution in Support of Changing the
State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts**

Sponsors:

Owen Zaret, Councilor At-Large
Salem Derby, Councilor Precinct 4
Homar Gomez, Councilor Precinct 2

Whereas the history of the State of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the State of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived on their shores;

Whereas the current Native Nations within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts include Mashpee Wampanoag, Aquinnah Wampanoag, and Nipmuc Nation.

Whereas the Colonial broadsword brandished above the head of the Native man on the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Wampanoag leaders who resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Native man in the Flag and Seal were modeled from a Native skeleton kept in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and his facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds

of exposure in 1675, their subsequent enslavement in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Native men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Native adult males by 1722, half that amount for Native women and children;

Whereas Native Americans were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the colonists at Plymouth Plantation in the year 2020, afforded every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an awareness of the possibility of a better relationship between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas, Native Americans have endured and long suffered the many abuses of racism through intentional genocide, intentional cultural genocide through the forcible removal of children from families to industrial and boarding schools, forcible dispossession, removal, and lack of access to traditional lands, and indentured servitude.

Whereas, such abuses that continue to this day include marginalization, oppression, invisibilization, lack of adequate health care, forcible removal of children from continued lack of access to traditional lands, and lack of autonomy over identity and representation such as the cultural symbols and images for public schools and sports teams.

Whereas, the area now known as the City of Easthampton shares a rich Native history with tribal Nations such as the Nonotuck and Norwottuck, which lived in this area for thousands of years before the first colonial settlers arrived in 1654;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Easthampton hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2020 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new seal and motto for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The city clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Sen. Marc Pacheco and Rep. Antonio Cabral, co-chairs of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, and to Sen. John Velis and Rep. Daniel Carey, with the request that they continue their support for the work of the aforementioned Special Commission.

Approved this 7th day of September, 2022.

DocuSigned by: <i>Homar Gomez</i> BF37EF691914C0	DocuSigned by: <i>Salem Derby</i> 07EED099E4C15A	DocuSigned by: <i>[Signature]</i> B10197704FE472D
DocuSigned by: <i>Dan Rist</i> 023BC725073314D...	DocuSigned by: <i>David Munnier</i> DEAC687612694D6...	DocuSigned by: <i>JP Kwiecinski</i> BD7E...4FFE134ED...
DocuSigned by: <i>Koni Denham</i> 3EEA089F609B447	DocuSigned by: <i>Owen Earet</i> 0178F...01C...F43D...	DocuSigned by: <i>[Signature]</i> 041F147...28F184TC...

Easthampton City Council

In accordance with Section 3-7 of the Easthampton Home Rule Charter, the following order, resolution or vote adopted by the City Council is presented to the Mayor for approval:

Nicole LaChapelle

Nicole M. LaChapelle, Mayor

Date: 9/8/2022