



***CITY OF EASTHAMPTON***  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day Resolution**

*Sponsor: Owen Zaret, Councilor at-large*

WHEREAS, the first Monday in March is an appropriate day to be designated as COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is an illness caused by a virus that can transmit from person to person and has spread across the world, creating a global pandemic and having catastrophic effects on human life, our community, and our economy; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, communities in every State and US territories began to experience increased loss of life and families lost parents, siblings, children, friends, neighbors from the virus; and

WHEREAS, Public health guidance and policies targeted at prevention, such as social distancing, wearing masks in public, and staying home help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, prevented illness, and lessened the burden on individuals and society; and

WHEREAS, local, State, Tribal, and Federal Government entities, and public servants took swift action to protect the health of the general public and provided critical support to businesses, communities, and the people of the United States including US territories in need; and

WHEREAS, in response to rapid spread of COVID-19 its disruptions, essential workers stepped up to provide critical services to help protect our communities and save lives, sacrificing their own health and safety; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income communities and communities of color, rural and tribal communities, people with disabilities, people with weakened immune systems, unhoused individuals, and those living in congregate settings such as long-term care facilities and prisons—exacerbating systemic inequities and social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the Native American community, with Native Americans losing over 6 years life expectancy, and has caused the incalculable loss of elders who carried with them the communities' cultures, languages, traditions; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has harmed the health and wellbeing of Veterans, especially those struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, because of the increased social isolation and disrupted access to mental health services; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has harmed the health and wellbeing of children by delaying access to care and health services, disrupting schooling, undermining their sense of safety and security, increasing stress on caregivers, and by tragically robbing millions of children of a parent or caregiver; and

WHEREAS the symptoms and severity of COVID-19 can vary dramatically by individual and the long-term health implications for survivors are largely unknown, as many survivors suffer with post-acute sequelae SARS-CoV2 following infection (PASC); and

WHEREAS, more than 6.85 million people worldwide and 1.12 million in the United States including US territories have lost their lives due to COVID-19, and, in Massachusetts alone, more than 23 thousand lives have been lost to this deadly virus; and

WHEREAS, each life lost to COVID-19 mattered and leaves a hole in the hearts of loved ones, family members, and surrounding community; and,

WHEREAS, Massachusetts HD.3821 seeks to establish a statewide COVID 19 Remembrance Day on the first Monday in March; and,

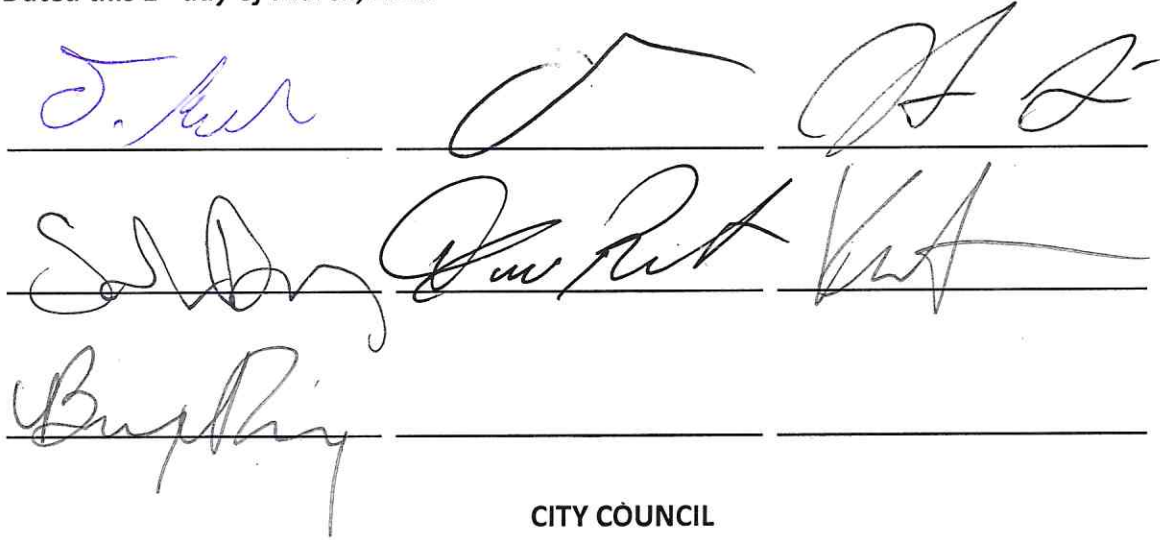
WHEREAS, Similar efforts are underway on the federal level to create a national COVID 19 day of remembrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on this day the City Council of Easthampton, Massachusetts recognizes the first Monday of each March as "COVID-19 Memorial Day", in remembrance of those Marked By COVID, those who have lost their lives, and in honor of those who continue to suffer from the impacts of this virus,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council urge our community to continue taking preventative measures as appropriate, to protect vulnerable members of the community and to mitigate spread of this virus, in tribute to essential workers and those who rose in service to protect the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to State Representative Dan Carey, State Senator John Velis, Congressman Richard Neal, and Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023

Handwritten signatures of five City Council members on a set of three horizontal lines. The signatures are: 1. J. Cur, 2. J. A. J., 3. S. D. J., 4. J. P. J., and 5. B. J.

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:

Handwritten signature of Nicole M. LaChapelle on a horizontal line.

Nicole M. LaChapelle

DATE: 3-1-2023