

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## City of Newton



### Memorial Commendation

In Remembrance of

## Girard Plante

- Whereas, Girard Plante was a passionate and effective advocate for people with disabilities, and
- Whereas, Girard Plante dedicated his life to helping people get the accommodations they were legally entitled to, and
- Whereas, Girard Plante was a tenacious lobbyist working alongside the Boston Center for Independent Living to increase funding for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program enabling people with disabilities to leave nursing homes to live independently, and
- Whereas, Girard Plante fought fiercely for living wages for personal care assistants and to expand PCA coverage for people as part of the Mass Health program, and
- Whereas, Girard Plante was a member of the Commission on Disabilities for almost twenty years, including twelve as a co-chair of the Commission, and
- Whereas, Girard's advocacy led Newton to create a full-time ADA coordinator position and under Girard's leadership on the Commission upgraded City Hall to be more accessible, most especially the elevator serving the War Memorial, and
- Whereas, Girard Plante worked with state legislators, the MBTA, and local officials to authorize funding and start the process to make Newton's commuter rail stations accessible, and
- Whereas, Girard Plante was a frequent rider on the MBTA trolley system and conscientiously reported issues to the MBTA that affected safety and accessibility for people with disabilities, and
- Whereas, Girard Plante earned the title of Mayor of Auburndale because of his willingness to help his neighbors resolve issues they encountered, most especially in Norumbega Gardens, and
- Whereas, Girard's advocacy also lead to improved enforcement of accessible parking spaces and these fines be available to the commission to support their work, and
- Whereas, Girard Plante was not afraid to speak up, loud and clear when he felt not enough was being done to keep people safe and support those in need and for 20 years, Girard's popular column Simple Times in The Boston Post-Gazette addressed many important issues in society, and
- Whereas, the world is a far better place given Girard's dedication to advancing rights for people with disabilities

Now, therefore, be it Resolved,

That the Honorable City Council representing the entire City of Newton recognizes Girard Plante's immeasurable impact on the City of Newton in making it a more welcoming, accessible, and liveable city for all its residents and recognizes the great loss to our community brought on by his passing.

Commendation offered on this 6th Day of March 2023 by Council President Susan Albright, City Council Vice President Richard Lipof, President Emeritus R. Lisle Baker, and Councilors Alicia Bowman, Leonard Gentile, Joshua Krintzman, Christopher Markiewicz and Andreae Downs on behalf of the entire City Council

