

# Rights Must NEVER Be Taken for Granted!

**O**n October 26, 2001, President Bush signed into law the USA PATRIOT Act, which forfeits many rights guaranteed to citizens and noncitizens by the Bill of Rights of our Constitution. The USA PATRIOT Act:

- Gives the FBI and the CIA greater rights to wiretap phones, monitor e-mail, survey medical, financial and student records, and break into homes and offices without prior notification.
- Allows noncitizens to be deported or detained indefinitely without judicial appeal, and often without access to legal counsel.

Additionally:

- A Bureau of Prisons order allows federal agents to eavesdrop on conversations between lawyers and their clients held in federal custody.
- The Justice Department has dismantled regulations against FBI COINTELPRO-type operations (covert activities that in the past targeted domestic groups and individuals).
- The Administration has ordered secret military tribunals for suspected terrorists.

Although the new regulations were passed in the name of counteracting terror, **not one terrorist** has been caught or held under the Act's provisions.

## Cities and Towns Pass Resolutions

Dozens of cities, towns, and counties in more than 20 states have either passed or are considering resolutions declaring their communities "Civil Liberties Safe Zones." (*See sample resolution on other side.*)

## How Your Community Can Help Change National Policy

Local Bill of Rights Defense Committees first work at the local level to:

- Educate community members and local legislators about the threats to civil liberties.
- Organize locally to pass resolutions.

Next, they move to the federal level:

- Communities that have passed resolutions form statewide coalitions composed of elected leaders and community members.
- These coalitions meet with their Congressional delegation to ask them to actively work for legislation to restore civil liberties.

*The more cities and towns that pass resolutions, the greater our voice will be at the national level.*

## Defend Our Bill of Rights!

There may already be a Bill of Rights Defense Committee in your community. Visit our web site at [www.gjf.org/NBORDC](http://www.gjf.org/NBORDC) to find great links and information on the issues, the status of resolutions passed and in progress nationwide, tools to help organize in your town, and other ideas for taking back our Constitutional rights.

**Web site url:** [www.bordc.org](http://www.bordc.org)  
Florence, MA 01062  
**Email:** [BORDCweb@attbi.com](mailto:BORDCweb@attbi.com)  
413-582-0110

**Address:** P.O. Box 60591,

**Telephone:**

Join the growing national movement of communities declaring themselves **CIVIL LIBERTIES SAFE ZONES**. Find more sample resolutions and other tools at [www.bordc.org](http://www.bordc.org).

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## **Resolution in Defense of the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution (Passed unanimously by the Northampton City Council on May 2, 2002)**

**Whereas**, the City of Northampton has a long and distinguished history of protecting and expanding civil rights and civil liberties, often being a beacon for our country's citizens when liberties are threatened; and

**Whereas**, the City of Northampton houses a diverse student and working population, including non-citizens, whose contributions to the community are vital to its character and function; and

**Whereas**, the City of Northampton has with gratitude for their supreme sacrifice memorialized those in the Armed Forces who have died in battle protecting these same cherished rights and liberties; and

**Whereas**, the City Council of Northampton, motivated by the commitment to "uphold the human rights of all persons in Northampton and the free exercise and enjoyment of any and all rights and privileges secured by our constitutions and laws of the United States, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Northampton," passed an ordinance in 1998 which established the Human Rights Commission of the City of Northampton; and

**Whereas**, several acts and orders recently enacted at the Federal level, including sections of the USA PATRIOT Act and several Executive Orders, now threaten these fundamental rights and liberties:

- Freedom of speech, religion, assembly and privacy;
- The rights to counsel and due process in judicial proceedings; and
- Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures;

All guaranteed by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United States Constitution and its Bill of Rights;

**Therefore**, we the City Council of Northampton, Massachusetts, acting in the spirit and history of our community, do hereby request that:

1. Local law enforcement continue to preserve residents' freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and privacy; rights to counsel and due process in judicial proceedings; and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures even if requested or authorized to infringe upon these rights by federal law enforcement acting under new powers granted by the USA PATRIOT Act or orders of the Executive Branch;
2. Federal and state law enforcement officials acting within the City work in accordance with the policies of the Northampton Police Department, and in cooperation with the Department, by not engaging in or permitting detentions without charges or racial profiling in law enforcement;
3. The U.S. Attorney's Office, the Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Massachusetts State Police report to the Northampton Human Rights Commission regularly and publicly the extent to and manner in which they have acted under the USA PATRIOT Act, new Executive Orders, or COINTELPRO-type regulations, including disclosing the

names of any detainees held in western Massachusetts or any Northampton residents detained elsewhere;

4. Our United States Congressman and Senators monitor the implementation of the Act and Orders cited herein and actively work for the repeal of the parts of that Act and those Orders that violate fundamental rights and liberties as stated in the Constitutions of the Commonwealth and the United States.