



YMCA PILOT

1 message

Julie Costello <Julie.Costello@hrymca.org>
To: "Mayor of Northampton Mass." <mayor@northamptonma.gov>
Cc: apollock407 <apollock407@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 3, 2016 at 4:25 PM

Mayor David Narkewicz
Northampton City Hall
210 Main St.
Northampton, MA 10160

May 31, 2016

Dear Mayor Narkewicz,

I am writing in response to your request for a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes. The Hampshire Regional is one of more than 2000 YMCA's nationwide, all of which are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as charitable, tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organizations. Unlike for-profit businesses that are owned privately and provide private benefit, YMCAs are community assets. Ys exist to provide beneficial services to the community, not to make a profit. Our cause is to strengthen communities, educate and nurture children, and promote healthy living in spirit, mind and body for all. Ys are formed by the community, run by the community, and have a mission to serve the community. Operational decisions at YMCAs are made by local volunteers and staff who live in the community and best understand how to meet the needs of the community.

Federal and state governments do not exempt YMCAs from taxes for their programs and services alone. We earn our tax exemption by making these programs and services accessible to all people. The Y is accessible to all people through financial assistance programs for those in need. Each year we provide over \$150,000 in free and subsidized programs for ages from infants to seniors.

We are proud to have served this community since the 1880s. Times change and communities change, but the Y is here to work with community partners to identify and meet the ever growing needs. We have recently developed new partnerships with the Massachusetts Department of Health to provide free diabetes prevention programming and the Veteran's Administration to offer support when our veterans return from combat. In October we will begin the Livestrong Cancer Survivorship program to help those recovering from cancer get back on the road to health at no cost to the participants.

The Hampshire Regional YMCA is proud to be part of a movement that engages 22 million men,

women, and children—of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds in the U.S. each year. YMCAs are helping address the nation's most pressing social issues related to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. From the biggest cities to the smallest towns, this is how YMCAs earn their tax exemption. While we fully understand the need for services in our city, we respectfully decline the request for voluntary payment in lieu of taxes. We feel the Hampshire Regional YMCA is a valuable resource to the City of Northampton. Our goal is to continue to grow and partner with other organizations to bridge the gaps in our service area. I would enjoy the opportunity to discuss our vision with you.

Sincerely Yours,

Julie Costello

CEO

Julie Costello

CEO

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The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

