



## **Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council**

Committee Members:

*Chair: Councilor Stanley Moulton, III*

*Vice Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge*

*Councilor Jeremy Dubs*

*Councilor Quaverly Rothenberg*

### **MEETING AGENDA**

**Date: February 5, 2024**

**Time: 5 p.m.**

Virtual Meeting

The City of Northampton does not discriminate based on disability and is committed to hosting accessible meetings. To request a reasonable accommodation to attend any City meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at [adacoordinator@northamptonma.gov](mailto:adacoordinator@northamptonma.gov) or call (413) 587-1288.

**The February 5, 2024 City Services Committee meeting will be held by remote participation. The public can follow the committee's deliberations by joining the virtual meeting by phone or computer. The meeting will be recorded for later broadcast on Northampton Open Media (Channel 15) and uploaded to the Northampton Government Video Archive on YouTube.**

**Live public comment will be available using telephone call-in or video conferencing technology beginning at 5 p.m.**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING IN OR JOINING THE MEETING**

**[PUBLIC MEETING LINK](#)**

For telephone call-in, call:

+979 436-2866 US

**Meeting ID: 886 6262 3753**

**Participant #: #**

**Password: 158576**

**1. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call**

**2. Announcement of Audio/Video Recording**

This meeting is being audio/video recorded.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**A. Minutes of January 22, 2024 Organizational Meeting**

Documents:

[01-22-2024\\_City Services Committee\\_Organizational\\_Meeting.pdf](#)

**4. Public Comment**

**5. 24.004 Appointment of Kala Fisher as Auditor, referred by City Council - 1/18/2024**

Documents:

[24.004 Kala Fisher Appointment Memo.pdf](#)

**6. Items Referred to Committee**

**A. 24.003 Appointments to Parks and Rec and Arts Council, referred by City Council - 1/4/2024**

Documents:

[24.003 Appointments to Park and Rec, Arts Council.pdf](#)

[24.003 Ann-Marie Moggio Reference.pdf](#)

[24.003 Brian Foote Reference.pdf](#)

**7. Review of Process to Interview Applicants for Appointment to Boards and Committees**

**8. New Business**

**9. Adjourn**

Contact: *stanley Moulton, III*

smoulton@northamptonma.gov

413.221.8340



## **Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council**

Committee Members:

*Chair: Councilor Stanley Moulton, III  
Vice-Chair: Councilor Marianne LaBarge  
Councilor Jeremy Dubs  
Councilor Quaverly Rothenberg*

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: January 22, 2024  
Time: 4 p.m.  
Via Teleconference

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

At 4:01 p.m., Acting Chair Councilor Stanley Moulton, III called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors Jeremy Dubs and Marianne L. LaBarge were present. Councilor Quaverly Rothenberg was absent on roll call but joined at 4:20 p.m. Also present was Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.

2. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording**

Councilor Moulton announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councilor Moulton opened the floor to nominations.

**Councilor LaBarge nominated Councilor Moulton as chair.**

There being no further nominations, Councilor Moulton said he accepted the nomination. He said he believes he has the time, the knowledge and the organizational skills needed to keep this committee running efficiently. His leadership style is collaborative so he wants to be sure that everyone who wants to be heard – members of the committee, other councilors, other city officials and particularly, members of the public – are given that opportunity. He said he appreciated their confidence in him.

There being no further discussion, councilors voted affirmatively 3:0 by roll call vote as follows:

**Councilor Moulton – Councilor Moulton**

**Councilor Dubs – Councilor Moulton**

**Councilor LaBarge – Councilor Moulton**

**Councilor Rothenberg – absent**

4. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Councilor Moulton opened the floor to nominations.

**Councilor Moulton nominated Councilor LaBarge as vice chair.**

There being no further nominations, Councilor LaBarge said she would be very privileged to take the position of vice chair of City Services and will accept the nomination. She has a lot of experience from all of the committees she has served on.

Councilor Moulton said he appreciated her willingness to serve and will draw upon her vast experience since she is the only one of the four of them who has served on City Services.

Councilors voted affirmatively 3:0 by roll call vote as follows:

**Councilor Dubs – Councilor LaBarge**

**Councilor LaBarge – Councilor LaBarge**

**Councilor Moulton – Councilor LaBarge**

**Councilor Rothenberg – absent**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no members of the public present, Councilor Moulton moved to the next item on the agenda.

6. **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2023 AND DECEMBER 4, 2023**

**Councilor LaBarge moved to approve both sets of minutes as a group. Councilor Dubs seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0 by roll call vote.**

7. **ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

**24.003 Appointments to Parks and Rec, Arts Council, referred by City Council - 1/4/2024**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**David Ames**, 32 Round Hill Road, Unit C, Northampton

Term: January 2024 - January 2027

*To fill a vacancy*

**Arts Council**

**Jennifer Polins**, 32 Maple Street, Florence

Term: January 2024 - January 2027

*To fill a vacancy*

**Kit Pedraza**, 85 Market Street, Apt. 4, Northampton

Term: January 2024 - January 2027

*To fill a vacancy*

Councilor Moulton discussed the various avenues for receipt of information about candidates. In addition to the application itself, the City Services Committee has typically assigned a councilor to interview each applicant at a mutually-convenient time and report back to other members.

In addition, as part of their charge, they will be taking up implementation of the recommendations of the select committee to study barriers to service, one of which is establishment of a standard list of questions to insure roughly the same information is elicited from every applicant. Councilors can use those questions as a starting point but are not limited to those questions.

Another avenue for receiving information as recommended by the barriers select committee is reaching out to chairs and vice chairs. The administrative assistant has reached out to both the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Arts Council and received input from Brian Foote. Any such information received will be made available at the next meeting when they consider information on the candidates.

Councilor LaBarge mentioned she herself generally spends a lengthy time talking to candidates.

Councilor Moulton stated his inclination to assign interviews based on councilor interest and geographic location (i.e. - assigning councilors to interview residents of their ward where possible).

Since none of the candidates live in Ward 4 or Ward 6, he asked Councilor LaBarge her preference. She said she would like to interview David Ames. Councilor Moulton asked Councilor Dubs to interview Jennifer Polins. He said he intends to ask Councilor Rothenberg to interview Kit Pedraza because he lives in Ward 3. He shared his hope to take up recommendations on the individual candidates at the regular February meeting.

#### **8. Update on Status of Implementation of Barriers to Service Select Committee Final Report Recommendations**

The matrix is valuable in identifying recommendations of the barriers select committee that apply to the appointment process and figuring out how to implement them, Councilor Moulton shared. In the select committee report, a lot of concern was expressed that the process of applying for appointments is seen as opaque, not very efficient and generally not friendly to applicants. Countering that perception is going to be one of their chief tasks over the next several months.

He personally first got involved in understanding the concerns about barriers to service when he chaired the Charter Review Committee, Councilor Moulton shared. While it was not a charter matter, it was a recommendation to City Council that this committee be set up. The committee formed two years ago and he thinks their report is very valuable. He is committed to working with the mayor's office to further its recommendations and see how they can knock down some of these barriers.

He asked that this be put on the agenda today simply to make sure new members are up to speed with the report and where it stands. They will schedule it for discussion again at a future meeting.

Councilor Rothenberg joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Councilor Moulton reiterated the points he made about the various resources for vetting candidates for appointment (their applications, interviews and references from city staff and committee chairs).

In response to a question from Councilor Rothenberg, Councilor Moulton confirmed that the appointment of the auditor will be taken up at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. His expectation is that, because it is a department head-level position, they will do an in-person interview of the candidate.

For such an important role, Councilor Rothenberg asked if it would be possible to extend their interviews beyond just the applicant to current or former department staff, "almost like collaterals" about the job duties and current role. "I feel like the auditor is really, really important," she reflected.

Councilor LaBarge said she didn't have a problem with that. Councilor Moulton said he would check with the mayor.

**9. Set Meeting Schedule and Format for 2024 - 2025**

For scheduling purposes, councilors were agreeable to continuing the past practice of holding regular meetings the first Monday of the month. They agreed to a meeting time of 5 p.m. and to holding meetings remotely at least through the winter.

Councilor Rothenberg said she typically requests a hybrid format so constituents without internet can attend, but since this is mostly a working meeting, she is agreeable to holding meetings remotely with the caveat that people be allowed to submit comments in writing.

Councilor Moulton confirmed that they always accept written comments. He encouraged committee members to submit any such comments to the administrative assistant for distribution to the group.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

In response to Councilor Rothenberg's expressed concern about residents of the McDonald House and Walter Salvo House who don't have internet, Councilor LaBarge suggested looking at possible ways to accommodate them such as setting up a work station in a community room or having them go to the senior center. Councilor Rothenberg shared the good news that one of the public housing sites got an ARPA grant to set up internet access in its community room.

**11. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, **Councilor Dubs moved to adjourn. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried 4:0 by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.**

*Prepared By:*

*L. Krutzler, Administrative Assistant to the City Council*

*413.587.1210; [krutzler@northamptonma.gov](mailto:krutzler@northamptonma.gov)*



## MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton  
Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12  
Northampton, MA 01060-3199  
(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275  
mayor@northamptonma.gov

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council  
FROM: Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra  
CC: City Clerk Pamela Powers  
DATE: January 18, 2024  
RE: Appointment of City Auditor

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I am appointing Kala Fisher as the City Auditor for the City of Northampton, effective on her start date of February 1, 2024.

A resident of Athol, Ms. Fisher brings 17 years of municipal experience, with almost 10 years in the Town Accountant role. In Athol, she worked in the Building Department for seven years before becoming the Assistant Accountant and was also an active member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. She is still active in her hometown of Athol as the Vice Chair of the Selectboard. Her previous position was with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, where she worked as an accountant in four towns.

Ms. Fisher earned an associate's degree in Business Administration in 2014 from Mount Wachusett Community College. She is working towards the Massachusetts Municipal Auditors' & Accountants' Association Certification, which she expects to complete within two years. In her spare time, Kala is an avid billiards player and captain of her team. She has been to Las Vegas multiple times to participate with her team in the American Poolplayers Association World Pool Championships, finishing second in one year and fifth in another.

I am confident in Ms. Fisher's ability to lead the Office of the Auditor and am honored to select her for the position of City Auditor. I respectfully submit her appointment to the City Council for confirmation in accordance with the Northampton Charter, Article 2, § 2-10.



## MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

[mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov)

DATE: January 4, 2024

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra

**SUBJECT: Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions**

Please find the attached appointments/reappointments to City Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

**David Ames**, 32 Round Hill Road, Unit C, Northampton

Term: January 2024 – January 2027

*To fill a vacancy*

### **Arts Council**

**Jennifer Polins**, 32 Maple Street, Florence

Term: January 2024 - January 2027

*To fill a vacancy*

**Kit Pedraza**, 85 Market Street, Apt 4, Northampton

Term: January 2024 - January 2027

*To fill a vacancy*





City of Northampton

Mayor of Northampton Mass. <mayor@northamptonma.gov>

# Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment and Reappointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Mon, Oct 30, 2023 at 7:43 PM

To: mayor@northamptonma.gov

## Application for Appointment and Reappointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

City of Northampton Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Please return the completed form to: [mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov) or Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

Boards and Committees	Parks and Recreation Commission
First Name	David
Last Name	Ames
Title/ Preferred Pronouns	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Address1	<a href="#">32 Round Hill Road</a>
Address2	Unit C
City	Northampton
State	MA
Zip	01060
Home Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Work Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Cell Phone	2038565614
Occupation & Place of Employment	Sales Valley Bike and Ski Werks
Email	<a href="mailto:dwames@optonline.net">dwames@optonline.net</a>
Are you a Northampton resident?	Yes
Years Lived in Northampton	24
Age	60 - 69

Sex	Male
Racial / Ethnic Background	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Please list any other boards or committees of interest	<i>Field not completed.</i>
What skills and experience will you bring to this committee assignment?	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is David Ames and I am a resident of Northampton. I have worked in athletic retail most of my life, dealing primarily with bikes and ski equipment. I have run in a dozen Boston Marathons and competed in many mountain bike races over several years. Additionally, I love skiing and will head to Berkshire East, Stratton or Killington as often as possible throughout the winter. Think snow! I continue to run and bike commute year round and would love to assist others in enjoying the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>Northampton is an excellent place to live with awesome recreational venues. From the Connecticut River to the Sawmill Hills Conservation Area and quite a few places in between. Northampton has a lot to offer.</p> <p>I am eager to join the Parks and Recreation Commission and look forward to making Northampton an even more fun and healthy place to live.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>David Ames</p>

Are you currently serving or have you served on any city committee?	No
Please list other city committees you have served on	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Required: Please read the following, by signing below you state that you understand and agree.

*The filing of this form does not guarantee my appointment. An application is kept on file for two (2) years; after that I must file a new application. Being appointed to a committee, board, or commission means that I am considered a Municipal Employee under MGL Chapter 268A and thereby subject to Conflict of Interest Law MGL Chapter 268A, Financial Disclosure Law MGL Chapter 268B, as well as Open Meeting Law MGL Chapter 39: Section 23B. I understand that I will take the conflict of interest test after being appointed and that I also must be sworn in by the City Clerk. I will contact the appointing authority with any questions about my service.*

*Important: Once this form is submitted it becomes a public document, if there is information you do not want open to the public please do not include it on this form.*

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Signature David Ames

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Date 10/30/2023

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#### Post Application Submission Process

Thank you for taking the time to submit an application to serve on one of the many volunteer city boards, committees, and commissions.

The Mayor's office staff reviews the application and determines if a vacancy exists on desired board, committee, or commission. If no vacancy exists, your application is put on file for two years for consideration at a later date. If a vacancy exists, the application is sent to the board, committee, or commission staff person for a review of experience and qualifications. In some cases, you may be contacted and asked to attend a meeting of the board, committee, or commission to better confirm your interest.

After the Mayor's staff reviews your application, Mayor Sciarra will consider your application and schedule a brief telephone interview. At this time, Mayor Sciarra will make her final decision about your appointment.

Once the Mayor has submitted your name as an appointee to City Council at their next meeting, the City Council will refer the appointment to their Committee on City Services where you will be further vetted. After you are approved by the Committee on City Services, your appointment will be referred back to the City Council for a confirmation vote. After you are confirmed by the City Council, you will receive an appointment letter from the City Clerk's office with instructions on being sworn in for public service. After being sworn in by the City Clerk, you are ready to serve on your board, committee, or commission.

***The process for appointment from submitting an application to official acceptance can take 2-3 months and is not guaranteed with the submission of an application. The Mayor appoints members to her boards, committees, or commissions at her discretion.***

If you have any questions about this process or your application. Please reach out to Mayor Sciarra's assistant, Rachel Messier, at [rmessier@northamptonma.gov](mailto:rmessier@northamptonma.gov) or 413-587-1080.

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City of Northampton

Mayor of Northampton Mass. <mayor@northamptonma.gov>

# Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment and Reappointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 10:11 AM

To: mayor@northamptonma.gov

## Application for Appointment and Reappointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

City of Northampton Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Please return the completed form to: [mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov) or Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

Boards and Committees	Arts Council
First Name	Jennifer
Last Name	Polins
Title/ Preferred Pronouns	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Address1	32 Maple Street
Address2	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	Florence
State	Ma
Zip	01062
Home Phone	413 695 1799
Work Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Cell Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Occupation & Place of Employment	The School of Contemporary Dance & Thought, Inc.
Email	<a href="mailto:jenscdt@gmail.com">jenscdt@gmail.com</a>
Are you a Northampton resident?	Yes
Years Lived in Northampton	20
Age	50 - 59

Sex	Female
Racial / Ethnic Background	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Please list any other boards or committees of interest	<i>Field not completed.</i>
What skills and experience will you bring to this committee assignment?	I am a producer, and artistic director for my non profit- SCDT. I specialize in performance art and dance. I am a grant writer, and arts administrator.
Are you currently serving or have you served on any city committee?	No
Please list other city committees you have served on	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Required: Please read the following, by signing below you state that you understand and agree.

*The filing of this form does not guarantee my appointment. An application is kept on file for two (2) years; after that I must file a new application. Being appointed to a committee, board, or commission means that I am considered a Municipal Employee under MGL Chapter 268A and thereby subject to Conflict of Interest Law MGL Chapter 268A, Financial Disclosure Law MGL Chapter 268B, as well as Open Meeting Law MGL Chapter 39: Section 23B. I understand that I will take the conflict of interest test after being appointed and that I also must be sworn in by the City Clerk. I will contact the appointing authority with any questions about my service. Important: Once this form is submitted it becomes a public document, if there is information you do not want open to the public please do not include it on this form.*

Signature	Jennifer Polins
Date	12/7/2023

#### Post Application Submission Process

Thank you for taking the time to submit an application to serve on one of the many volunteer city boards, committees, and commissions.

The Mayor's office staff reviews the application and determines if a vacancy exists on the desired board, committee, or commission. If no vacancy exists, your application is put on file for two years for consideration at a later date. If a vacancy exists, the application is sent to the board, committee, or commission staff person for a review of experience and qualifications. In some cases, you may be contacted and asked to attend a meeting of the board, committee, or commission to better confirm your interest.

After the Mayor's staff reviews your application, Mayor Sciarra will consider your application and schedule a brief telephone interview. At this time, she will decide whether or not to put your application forward to the City Council.

If the Mayor submits your name as an appointee to the City Council, the City Council will refer the appointment to its Committee on City Services where you will be further vetted. If you are approved by City Services, your appointment will be referred back to the City Council for a confirmation vote. After City Council confirmation, you will receive an appointment letter from the City Clerk's office with instructions on being sworn in for public service. After being sworn in by the City Clerk, you are ready to serve on your board, committee, or commission.

***The appointment process, from application submission to official acceptance, can take 2-3 months, and the submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance. The Mayor appoints members to boards, committees, and commissions at her discretion.***

If you have any questions about this process or your application status, please contact Mayoral Assistant, Sydney Fahey, at [sfahey@northamptonma.gov](mailto:sfahey@northamptonma.gov) or 413-587-1080.

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City of Northampton

Mayor of Northampton Mass. <mayor@northamptonma.gov>

# Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment and Reappointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 11:45 AM

To: mayor@northamptonma.gov

## Application for Appointment and Reappointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

City of Northampton Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Please return the completed form to: [mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov) or Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

Boards and Committees	Arts Council
First Name	Kit
Last Name	Pedraza
Title/ Preferred Pronouns	They/He
Address1	85 Market St
Address2	Apt 4
City	Northampton
State	MA
Zip	01060
Home Phone	401-556-3346
Work Phone	413-587-1026
Cell Phone	401-556-3346
Occupation & Place of Employment	Parking Enforcement for the city of Northampton
Email	<a href="mailto:kpedraza@northamptonma.gov">kpedraza@northamptonma.gov</a>
Are you a Northampton resident?	Yes
Years Lived in Northampton	0
Age	30 - 39

Sex	Trans*/Non-Binary/Queer
Racial / Ethnic Background	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Please list any other boards or committees of interest	<i>Field not completed.</i>
What skills and experience will you bring to this committee assignment?	I am an artist that moved to Noho about 5 months ago, I already have exposure to local businesses in the area.
Are you currently serving or have you served on any city committee?	No
Please list other city committees you have served on	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Required: Please read the following, by signing below you state that you understand and agree.

*The filing of this form does not guarantee my appointment. An application is kept on file for two (2) years; after that I must file a new application. Being appointed to a committee, board, or commission means that I am considered a Municipal Employee under MGL Chapter 268A and thereby subject to Conflict of Interest Law MGL Chapter 268A, Financial Disclosure Law MGL Chapter 268B, as well as Open Meeting Law MGL Chapter 39: Section 23B. I understand that I will take the conflict of interest test after being appointed and that I also must be sworn in by the City Clerk. I will contact the appointing authority with any questions about my service. Important: Once this form is submitted it becomes a public document, if there is information you do not want open to the public please do not include it on this form.*

Signature	Kit Pedraza
Date	11/21/2023

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After the Mayor's staff reviews your application, Mayor Sciarra will consider your application and schedule a brief telephone interview. At this time, Mayor Sciarra will make her final decision about your appointment.



Once the Mayor has submitted your name as an appointee to City Council at their next meeting, the City Council will refer the appointment to their Committee on City Services where you will be further vetted. After you are approved by the Committee on City Services, your appointment will be referred back to the City Council for a confirmation vote. After you are confirmed by the City Council, you will receive an appointment letter from the City Clerk's office with instructions on being sworn in for public service. After being sworn in by the City Clerk, you are ready to serve on your board, committee, or commission.

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If you have any questions about this process or your application. Please reach out to Mayor Sciarra's assistant, Rachel Messier, at [rmessier@northamptonma.gov](mailto:rmessier@northamptonma.gov) or 413-587-1080.

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**City of  
Northampton**

Laura Krutzler <lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov>

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## Prospective Appointment to Parks & Rec Commission

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**Ann-Marie Moggio** <amoggio@northamptonma.gov>  
To: Laura Krutzler <lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov>

Fri, Jan 26, 2024 at 3:59 PM

Hi Laura,

I was out Friday, and then out sick, so sorry I didn't get back to you on this. I am excited as he seems to be a great candidate!

Have a nice weekend,

Ann-Marie

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Ann-Marie Moggio  
Parks & Recreation Director

[100A Bridge Rd., Florence, MA 01062](#)

p. 413-587-1040

City internal extension: 4606

Internal extension: x4606

fax. 413-587-1045

[www.northamptonma.gov/recreation](http://www.northamptonma.gov/recreation)





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## Upcoming Arts Council Appointment Decisions

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Arts Council <bfoote@northamptonma.gov>

Fri, Jan 19, 2024 at 9:58 AM

To: Laura Krutzler <lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov>

Cc: Kaye Carroll <kayechalfincarroll@gmail.com>, Stan Moulton III <smoulton@northamptonma.gov>, city council <citycouncil@northamptonma.gov>

Dear Laura and the City Services Committee and City Council,

I hope you everyone is well. Chair of the Arts Council Kaye Carroll is involved from the early stages on whom we put forth for Arts Council appointments. I share the applications with Kaye through email and we discuss the applicants.

In regards of Jen Polins, I recommend her with my highest approval. She is a integral part of the regional dance community and we would be lucky to have her on the Council. I look forward to having a Council member with extensive experience with dance art. We lack that as of now.

Kit Pedraza would be a great addition to the Council as well. Kit is a talented visual artist who also is part of the new team that puts together the Pride Parade. Having a direct link between the Arts Council and the Pride Parade Committee will be beneficial to production of that event. Kit is also new to town, having lived in Providence, and provides a fresh perspective on Northampton and the arts.

I hope these comments are helpful with your decision-making process. Thank you for inviting Kaye and I to comment on their potential appointments.

Let me know if you have any more questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Foote, Director of Arts and Culture  
City of Northampton  
240 Main Street  
Memorial Hall #1  
Northampton, MA 01060

(413) 587-1069

<http://northamptonartscouncil.org>

<http://paradisedistrict.org>

<http://firstnightnorthampton.org>

On Jan 19, 2024, at 9:40 AM, Laura Krutzler <lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov> wrote:

Dear Kaye and Brian,

You are receiving the attached notice of prospective appointments to the Arts Council per a recommendation of the Select Committee to Study Barriers to Serving on City Boards and Commissions.

Specifically, the select committee's recommendation is that "Chairs/vice chairs should be involved from the early stages of the [appointment] process to the point that the candidate is confirmed by City Council."

The City Services Committee welcomes your comments on either of these appointments.

I have attached the mayor's appointment memo and applications of Jennifer Polins and Kit Pedraza for your reference. You may submit your comments in writing before Monday, January 22nd to [citycouncil@northamptonma.gov](mailto:citycouncil@northamptonma.gov). These appointments will be taken up by the City Services Committee at its meeting on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 4 p.m.

I apologize for the short notice. The full City Council will be acting on the appointments on February 1, 2024 so there is additional time to provide feedback to the council as a whole if desired.

Best wishes,

Laura Krutzler

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<24.003 Appointments to Parks and Rec, Arts Council.pdf>