



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

*Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Chair  
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Vice Chair  
Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.  
Councilor John Thorpe*

### **Online Meeting via Teleconference**

Meeting Date: October 21, 2021

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting will take place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:05 pm.

#### **1. Meeting Called To Order**

#### **2. Roll Call**

#### **3. Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**

##### **A. Minutes Of October 7, 2021**

#### **4. Financial Orders**

##### **A. 21.342 An Order To Appropriate Senior Center Gift Fund Money To Financial Aid Fund**

Documents:

[21.342 an order to appropriate senior center gift fund money for financial aid fund.pdf](#)

[21.342 memo from senior services director.pdf](#)

##### **B. 21.343 An Order To Surplus City Land For Affordable Housing And A Community Resilience Hub Off Crafts Avenue**

Documents:

[21.343 an order to surplus city land for affordable housing and a community resilience hub off crafts avenue.pdf](#)

#### **5. New Business**

*-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

#### **6. Adjourn**

Contact: G-L Sciarra at [glsciarra@northamptonma.gov](mailto:glsciarra@northamptonma.gov)  
or 413-570-3133



**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council*

October 21, 2021

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Upon recommendation of the Mayor

**21.342 An Order to Appropriate Senior Center Gift Fund Money for Financial Aid Fund**

*Ordered, that*

Up to \$3,600 in Fiscal Year 2022 from the Northampton Senior Center Gift Fund be used to provide financial assistance to seniors to attend fee based programs offered at the Senior Center, provided that each participating senior meet financial aid guidelines established by the Senior Services Director and that such assistance be limited to no more than \$180 per person per year.

N O R T H A M P T O N  
*Senior Services*



67 Conz Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
Director: Marie Westburg  
Assistant Director: Janet Yurko

October 7th, 2021

Hello City Council Members,

I respectfully request that \$3600 from the Gift Fund be allocated for a Financial Aid Fund at the Senior Center. This fund will help us to ensure that participants who currently are unable to attend fee based programs have the option to do so. Qualifying criteria will mirror income guidelines for SNAP (165% of the poverty income guidelines) for Tier A discounts and the 250% poverty guidelines for Tier B discounts. Having two tiers for qualifying will allow older adults who are struggling financially, but just miss the line for many programs they still need, to access programs and services that will have a significant and positive impact on their quality of life.

Applicants who qualify will be able to use this funding for health and wellness programs such as a fitness center membership, fitness classes, foot clinics, reiki, discounted lunch in Mary's Bistro, a Senior Farm Share, and other similar programs.

Financial aid awards will be distributed through credit towards program fees and will not be carried over month to month or year to year. Applicants will be required to reapply annually. Applicants will be asked on the application if they would like to be screened, and assisted in applying for other community, state and federal income based programs, but this will not be required. Our hope is that we will connect low income patrons with more services while also making our current programs and services more accessible.

With the \$3600 we will begin by offering 20 people with up to \$15 a month to use towards designated programs. A total maximum of \$180 per year, per applicant.

Thank you for your consideration and support in our efforts to serve the seniors of Northampton!

Sincerely,

Marie Westburg

# City of Northampton

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## *In City Council, October 21, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability*

### 21.343 An Order to Surplus City Land for Affordable Housing and Community Resilience Hub off Crafts Avenue

WHEREAS, Consistent with the *Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan, Open Space, Recreation, and Multi-Use Trail Plan, Housing Needs Assessment and Strategic Housing Plan*, and *Unlocking Opportunity: An Assessment of Barriers to Fair Housing*, the city has a comprehensive affordable housing program, including limited development, funding, regulatory incentives, and surplusing of city land;

WHEREAS, Consistent with the *Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan, Community Resilience Building Findings, and Mayor's Task Force on Panhandling*, the city has a program to create a Community Resilience Hub as a downtown facility with a coordinated program for frontline communities and any residents who face chronic and acute stress due to disasters, pandemics, climate change, and other social and economic challenges. It will serve the 1% (homeless and those with severe chronic stress), the 15% (below the poverty line), the 40% (housing-burdened and under chronic stress) and the 100% (those at risk of acute adverse events), by providing access to resource, a social network, and building social resilience;

WHEREAS, Downtown studio apartments are especially important to help transition people who are experiencing houselessness or who face extreme housing burdens;

WHEREAS, The city has made offers for the Roundhouse and for St. John Cantius Church and explored other options for a community resilience hub, while exploring a back-up option of developing a hub in a new building, potentially co-located with affordable housing;

WHEREAS, The city's property extending from the Puchalski Municipal Office Building to the Roundhouse bus station driveway to Crafts Avenue, to the southerly most parking spaces in the city hall parking lot potentially is viable for affordable housing studios and/or a community resilience hub;

***Ordered, that***

City Council declares this land surplus to city needs;

Further that the Mayor is authorized to transfer deeds, easements, and/or leases for the land for affordable housing and/or a community resilience hub, subject to restrictions and conditions that the Mayor imposes to accomplish these needs.

