

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

December 15, 2022

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

22.209 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to Bike Path Bridge Lights over Main Street

Whereas, the city identified as part of COVID-19 Economic Recovery planning that improvements should be made to the bike path and railroad underpasses on Main Street to create a better pedestrian experience, and to incorporate the underpasses as part of a gateway to help the lower portion of Main Street, known as “Paradise East,” an integrated component of downtown Northampton.

Whereas, the City of Northampton applied to MassDOT’s Shared Spaces and Streets grant for lighting improvements to the bike bridge underpass. MassDOT awarded the grant to the City in summer 2021, and Phase 1 is already underway; and

Whereas, The City hired Tom Douglas Architects of Northampton as a consultant to design an artistic lighting installation under the bike bridge. In summer 2021, there was a community meeting to collect feedback. Lights made by Color Kinetics (colorkinetics.com), which are programmable and change colors, will be placed over the sidewalk area and over the street; and

Whereas, the City has set aside funds from traffic mitigation, the tourism gift account and wayfinding, in the amount of \$108,000 to implement the community approved design; and

Whereas the bids for constructing the lighting design were much higher than anticipated for this project leaving a gap of \$75,000;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, THAT,

the sum of \$75,000 be appropriated from the FY2023 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to a new account to complete funding so that the lighting that has been previously designed under the bike path bridge over Main Street can be purchased and installed.