

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

February 16, 2023

Upon the recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.249 An Order to Appropriate \$30,000 Free Cash for City Hall Campus Space Study

Whereas, the City of Northampton owns a cluster of buildings in downtown Northampton functionally known as the “City Hall Campus,” that includes City Hall, the Puchalski Municipal Building, and Memorial Hall. These buildings house multiple city and Northampton Public School departments that provide services to city residents as well as public meeting spaces for the City Council and city boards and committees; and

Whereas, more than one hundred municipal and school employees currently work and are based out of offices housed on the City Hall Campus; and

Whereas, the buildings of the City Hall Campus have significant maintenance needs, and the priority is to conduct all work to help reach our *Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan* decarbonization goals, and to that end assessment of space and usage is needed; and

Whereas, in the past year, the City has created or proposed additional staff to deliver critical services to Northampton Residents, including the transition of the Health Department to the Department on Health and Human Services including the division of Community Care and the Climate Action and Project Administration Department, which have put pressure on existing spaces; and

Whereas, multiple city departments have significant storage needs for documents, personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpiles, elections equipment, and other bulky community assets, including those that must legally be kept on campus and whose storage directly competes with municipal employee desk space on the City Hall Campus; and

Whereas, an external, independent evaluation is necessary to recommend how to maximize the efficiency and equity of allotted space to each department according to their staff and storage needs relative to the available space in all buildings on the City Hall Campus; so

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

The sum of \$30,000 be appropriated from the FY2023 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to complete a study on uses of municipal space in the City Hall Campus area, with recommendations on efficiency of use.