

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

February 16, 2023

Upon the recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.250 An Order to Appropriate \$30,000 Free Cash for Recreational Field Usage and Responsibility Study

Whereas, the Northampton Parks & Recreation Department works to promote the well-being of the individual and the community by providing a wide range of high quality and affordable activities to meet the leisure needs of our residents and visitors, the City of Northampton; and

Whereas, the Northampton Public Schools athletic program provides a competitive arena where student-athletes can display their talents, enhance their physical wellness and skills, and gain greater technical and tactical understanding of and appreciation for their chosen sport; and

Whereas, the City of Northampton has 245+ acres of land designated for recreational use for Northampton Public Schools, Northampton residents, and visitors to Northampton. Approved uses include sporting events sponsored by Northampton Public Schools and private leagues for both adults and children, casual recreational uses such as hiking, walking dogs on leash, enjoyment of playground structures, etc; and

Whereas, Recreational fields in the City of Northampton are managed by three separate departments - the Parks & Recreation Department which works to program most public fields, the Department of Public Works Division of Forestry, Parks and Cemeteries which is responsible for the maintenance and preparation of many recreation areas, and the Central Services Department, which is responsible for the maintenance and preparation of all fields controlled by Northampton Public Schools and Smith Vocational Agricultural High School. These city entities work in close cooperation to ensure quality resources for all sporting and recreational activities in Northampton; and

Whereas, in order to maximize the efficiency of service delivery at Northampton public recreation resources, and to minimize the duplication of staff effort across city departments, and minimize the costs of maintenance materials, equipment and other operational costs across all resources, a comprehensive independent study of the interplay of city policy and practices is

needed, to fully understand complex interaction of so many city departments and identify areas where services can be improved and cost savings can be enjoyed; and

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 the Recreational Field Usage and Responsibilities.