



## Northampton Disability Commission

*Gene Page, Chair, City Councilor LaBarge, Vice-Chair*

*Northampton Senior Center 67 Conz Street*

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### **Northampton Disability Commission Schedules Public Forum Seeking Community Input on Draft ADA Self-Assessment and Transition Plan**

The Disability Commission has been carrying out an assessment, in partnership with the Office of Planning & Sustainability, to strengthen the City's capacity to promote the full participation of people of all ages with physical, sensory, communication, cognitive, neurological and developmental disabilities in public programs and facilities.

The Disability Commission will present 13 recommendations to the community for discussion and comment. Input is especially sought from residents from the large and diverse community of persons with disabilities living and working in the City of Northampton. The aim of the recommendations is to strengthen the City's ability to mitigate and eliminate barriers faced by people with disabilities including:

- Architectural barriers (i.e., deteriorated pedestrian environment, lack of fully accessible restrooms etc...)
- Communication barriers (i.e., need for additional sign language interpretation and assistive listening systems)
- Operational barriers (i.e., staff training)

The public forum seeking community input on the recommendations will be held, Monday, June 24, 2019 from 7PM-8:15PM at the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton. For additional information on the forum or to arrange for accommodations (an ASL translator will be provided) please contact Marie Westburg, ADA Coordinator at the Northampton Senior Center ([mwestburg@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mwestburg@northamptonma.gov) or 587-1228)

The assessment has been supported in part by funding from the Massachusetts Office on Disability. The original planning grant and city funded capital improvement funds helped to make the pedestrian environment in and around City Hall and the Municipal Building more accessible.

A copy of the draft assessment containing the 13 recommendations is available at <https://northamptonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12833/DRAFT-ADA-Self-Evaluation-and-Transition-Plan-Update>

Additional public forums for community comment will be scheduled over the next few months as needed, dates TBD.