



## MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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### **Northampton’s Principal Assessor Retires after 47 Years of Service; Deputy Assessor Nominated**

NORTHAMPTON - The City of Northampton’s Principal Assessor, Joan Sarafin, has announced her retirement, effective October 1, 2020, after a nearly half-century career with the city, making her among the longest-serving municipal employees in Northampton history.

“On behalf of the residents of Northampton she so ably served, I would like to extend sincere gratitude to Principal Assessor Sarafin for her 47 years of dedication to our community and for her unprecedented commitment to a department in which she rose up through the ranks to lead. I wish our beloved colleague, Joan, nothing but happiness and good health in her well-earned retirement,” said Mayor David J. Narkewicz.

Ms. Sarafin started her career in the Assessors Office in 1972 as a full-time junior clerk in order to help with college expenses for her two children. Over the years she worked her way up from Junior Clerk to Senior Clerk to Principal Clerk to part-time Assessor. In 1979, she received her MAAO certification from the Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers and in 1989, she was appointed to the full-time position of Principal Assessor. Ms. Sarafin was very active in the local assessing community and served for 10 years as President of the Hampshire-Hampden Assessors Association.

During her tenure she oversaw many advancements in the department, including the computerization of the office. Her proudest accomplishments were obtaining her MAAO Certification and providing help to seniors with the exemption process. She would often go to the homes of seniors to assist them with necessary paperwork if they were unable to come into the office. She also enjoyed helping local farmers with the required paperwork to obtain agricultural special tax assessments.

“I loved my job. I loved the people I worked with. And most of all, I loved helping city residents,” said Ms. Sarafin, reflecting on her long municipal career.

Mayor Narkewicz intends to promote and appoint Deputy Assessor Marc Dautreuil to the position of Principal Assessor, subject to confirmation by the City Council. Deputy Assessor Dautreuil has been with the department since 2016, coming from Barnstable and Plymouth County where he worked previously as a real estate appraiser.

For more information, contact the Mayor’s Office at 413-587-1249 or [mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov).