



## MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

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### **Chief Procurement Officer Joe Cook to Retire After 35-Year Municipal Career With Northampton**

NORTHAMPTON - The City of Northampton's Chief Procurement Officer, Attorney Joe Cook, retires Monday, February 20, 2023, after serving in Northampton municipal government for 35 years.

"The City of Northampton is profoundly grateful to Joe Cook for his incredible service," said Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra. "As an attorney, Joe brought a unique set of skills to city procurement and an unparalleled historical memory about city projects thanks to his long service. As I took office, it was immediately apparent how sincerely Joe held the city's interests in every contract negotiation and how well he has served the people of Northampton in his role. Joe will be missed."

Mr. Cook began his career in Northampton in 1987 as the Assistant City Solicitor under then-City Solicitor Kathleen Fallon. In 1990, upon passing Massachusetts Procurement Law, Chapter 30B, he was named Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) for the City of Northampton, where he reported to the Central Services Director. Next, early in the 2000s, the CPO moved to the Auditor's Office, where Mr. Cook finished his career this week.

As Chief Procurement Officer, Mr. Cook performed administrative and supervisory work in implementing and administering the purchasing policies, practices, and procurement of city-wide third-party supplier spending for departments within the city. The Chief Procurement Officer oversees the city's procurement activities to ensure compliance with relevant Massachusetts General Laws and ensures that all purchases of goods and services, as well as construction and capital project bids, are in accordance with the city's ethical standards, and open, fair, and competitive practices under Commonwealth and city regulations.

"I'm proud that during my tenure, with the support of all five of the Mayors I worked for, Northampton has never been found to violate any statute or regulation related to procurement," said Mr. Cook, "There are probably municipalities equal in quality to Northampton's procurement practices, but I'm confident that there are none better."

Mr. Cook graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and later from the University of Cincinnati Law School. He moved to western Massachusetts in 1987 for the Assistant City Solicitor position with the city. In retirement, Mr. Cook plans to do some procurement

consulting with other municipalities in the Commonwealth, manage his family's rental properties, and travel extensively.

Northampton has hired William Coffey as its next Chief Procurement Officer, who has this week enjoyed some overlap with Mr. Cook. The CPO position is moving from the Office of the Auditor to Mayor Sciarra's newly created and now City Council-approved Climate Action and Project Administration (CAPA) Department. William will serve under the department director once hired.

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