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City Opens Cooling Centers

For Immediate Release – September 5, 2023

NORTHAMPTON - In advance of the forecasted high temperatures, cooling centers will be open at the following locations:

Wednesday, September 6, 2023	Thursday, September 7, 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Division of Community Care Community Room, Round House Plaza, 1 Roundhouse Plaza 8:30am - 5pm● Forbes Library, 20 West St. 10am - 8pm● Manna Community Center 48 Elm St. 9am - 3pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Division of Community Care Community Room Round House Plaza, 1 Roundhouse Plaza 8:30am - 5pm● Forbes Library, 20 West St. 10am - 8pm● Lilly Library, 19 Meadow St. 10am - 8pm● Manna Community Center 48 Elm St. 9am - 3pm

Cooling centers are open to everyone, and anyone needing a cool place during the heatwave is encouraged to visit. For those who do not wish to visit a cooling center, please remember that there are other public air-conditioned places in the area where you can get relief (libraries, theaters, shopping centers, etc.). These types of facilities offer refuge during the warmest times of the day.

Here are some tips to follow during hot, humid weather:

- Slow down, avoid strenuous activity, and drink plenty of water regularly/often, even if you do not feel thirsty
- Stay indoors as much as possible
- If you do not have air-conditioning, stay on your lowest floor, out of the sun. Electric fans do not cool the air, but they do help evaporate sweat, which cools your body
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing

- Eat well-balanced, light, regular meals. Avoid high-protein foods that increase metabolic rate.
- Never leave children or pets alone in a closed vehicle
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors

Heat stress is a severe condition that poses a health threat to many people, particularly older adults and youth. Heat stress strains the body, and if it becomes too great, it can cause severe and permanent damage, even death. Preventive measures should be taken to avoid heat stress. For additional information on warning signs and symptoms of heat-related illness, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html>

For additional information on cooling centers, or if you need assistance due to the heat, please contact Northampton Public Safety at 413-587-1100.