



## MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

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### **Mayor Sciarra of Northampton Appoints Energy Specialist Dr. Benjamin Weil as Interim CAPA Director**

NORTHAMPTON – The City of Northampton is proud to announce a leadership transition at the Climate Action and Project Administration (CAPA) Department, marking a new chapter in the city’s journey towards sustainability and climate resilience. Dr. Benjamin Weil, an esteemed expert in the field of energy and sustainability with a focus on sustainable building systems, has been appointed as the interim director of CAPA. Dr. Weil succeeds Carole Collins, who has decided to return to her position with the City of Greenfield as its Energy and Sustainability Director.

Under Carole Collins’ stewardship, CAPA made notable strides toward Northampton’s sustainability objectives. In collaboration with the Central Services department, she oversaw a retro-commissioning effort to optimize building management systems across the city. Her review and adjustment of the city’s solar arrays bolstered the city’s solar energy capacity, generating over 170,000 kWh of clean electricity annually, and the department secured a favorable electricity contract. Carole also worked closely with city department heads to align and maximize FY25 capital improvement projects to climate action objectives. Her forward-looking strategies have set the department on a solid trajectory, poised for future success.

“Having Dr. Weil lead CAPA is an exciting step for Northampton,” shared Mayor Sciarra, “His deep knowledge in energy efficiency and sustainability and his specific experience with Northampton will drive our city's climate goals forward. We're thankful for Carole Collins' hard work and for inaugurating the CAPA department and wish her the best in her next chapter.”

Dr. Benjamin Weil comes to the City of Northampton with a distinguished career as an academic and practitioner in energy and building systems. Currently a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Dr. Weil has led numerous projects focused on reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint in buildings and often consults on Northampton projects. His work demonstrates a profound understanding of the complexities involved in creating sustainable urban environments. He has served on the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission since January 2018. Dr. Weil's approach aligns seamlessly with Northampton’s vision for a sustainable future, making him an ideal interim leader for CAPA. He will begin his interim position at the end of May and continue through August.

Dr. Weil shared his thoughts: "I'm excited about this opportunity to make real progress towards achieving Northampton's ambitious climate and sustainability goals. The CAPA department has the potential to integrate climate and sustainability into everything the city does, making local government more efficient, cost-effective, and responsive. Facing climate change requires bold, innovative actions, and I'm looking forward to making a meaningful impact."

The city deeply appreciates Carole Collins's invaluable contributions and welcomes Dr. Weil as we forge ahead in our commitment to sustainability and resilience.

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