



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

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Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra is Honored as 2024 Elected Official of the Year by the American Planning Association, Massachusetts Chapter

NORTHAMPTON - The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-MA) announced that it has named Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra as the 2024 Elected Official of the Year, honoring her steadfast leadership and commitment to thoughtful, community-driven planning.

The distinction recognizes the significant strides Northampton has made in sustainability, climate resilience, and social equity with work on an interconnected set of initiatives. Working closely with members of the Northampton community and building on the important work begun by her predecessors, Mayor Sciarra has established the Department of Climate Action and Project Administration (CAPA), created a climate-focused stabilization fund, advanced affordable housing projects, moved forward plans for a Community Resilience Hub, and shepherded the Picture Main Street project. Each of these efforts has been instrumental in translating the city's Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan into actionable outcomes, with the Picture Main Street project, in particular, showcasing her commitment to community input on safe, accessible, and inviting public spaces which are critical for our local economy and our environment.

Mayor Sciarra expressed her gratitude, stating, "I am deeply honored by this recognition from APA-MA. This award reflects the collective efforts of our community, whose active participation and feedback have been invaluable in shaping our city's future. Thoughtful, inclusive planning is essential to Northampton's success, and I am proud of our work to create a strong future for our city."

Mayor Sciarra also acknowledged collaborative efforts with Planning & Sustainability Director Carolyn Misch and her department in facilitating community conversations. These dialogues have been crucial in gathering diverse perspectives, allowing the city to craft well-informed policies that reflect the community's needs and aspirations to build a shared vision for Northampton's future.

She added, "The success of our planning initiatives is also a testament to the importance of a robust partnership with our state and federal government leaders. When all levels of government work together to achieve shared goals the results can be amazing."

For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at 413-587-1249 or mayor@northamptonma.gov.

About the [American Planning Association – Massachusetts Chapter \(APA-MA\)](#):

The American Planning Association Massachusetts Chapter (APA-MA) is an official Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). We are a 1,100-plus member organization of professional planners and planning officials who serve Massachusetts communities in many ways, at all levels of government, the private sector, and not-for-profit organizations.

The mission of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association is to enhance and support planning in Massachusetts through education, advocacy, outreach, communication, and provision of services and resources to members and the larger planning community in a manner that maximizes diversity, equity, and inclusion.