



MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ
City of Northampton
210 Main Street Room 12
Northampton, MA 01060-3199
(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275
mayor@northamptonma.gov

For Immediate Release – July 6, 2016

Mayor Appoints Linda Desmond New Director of Senior Services

Today Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced the appointment of Linda Desmond as the City of Northampton's new Director of Senior Services, succeeding Patricia Shaughnessy who retired on June 30, 2016.

Linda Desmond is a Northampton native and long-time city resident who recently returned to Florence after living and working in Ireland for 10 years. She has an extensive, 40-year background in elder and social services, most recently serving as Regional Program Director for Crosscare in North Dublin, Ireland. At Crosscare, Mrs. Desmond developed a new older men's initiative called League, targeting one hundred economically and socially vulnerable men in Dublin, and developed a new community initiative called Crosscare Connections, which created a "village" model of volunteer support for the oldest and most vulnerable Dublin residents in partnership with other organizations.

Prior to her work at Crosscare, Mrs. Desmond was Chief Executive Officer for Care Local, in Dublin, where she was responsible for all areas of management, including strategic planning, financial monitoring, grants management, and evaluation. She developed and implemented a strategy to maintain and expand Care Local's volunteer base of 150 volunteers by creating new program initiatives, including Plate Pals, which trained volunteers to assist in nursing homes during meal times. Prior to that, Mrs. Desmond worked for Age Action Ireland, the country's largest national aging program, as the Head of Empowerment and Regional Development.

In Northampton, Linda Desmond served as Vice President of Community Investment for United Way of Hampshire County, and in that role she supported volunteer teams to understand and address the community's most pressing needs. Prior to joining United Way, Mrs. Desmond served 18 years as Director of Senior Volunteer Programs of Hampshire and Franklin counties for the former Hampshire Community Action Commission. Linda Desmond also represented Ward 5 on the Northampton City Council for 5 years and served on the Northampton Council on Aging for 17 years.

"Linda Desmond brings an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience to this position," said Mayor Narkewicz in announcing the appointment. "She is a compassionate and dynamic leader with the skills and vision to move our Senior Services Department forward and I am excited that she is joining the City of Northampton."

Linda Desmond earned her Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in community service from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She also holds a Masters of Social Work with a concentration in social work administration and a graduate certification in gerontology from the University of Connecticut School Of Social Work.

The Mayor submitted his appointment to the City Council for confirmation in accordance with the Northampton Charter, Article 2, § 2-10 and it will appear on the Council's July 14th agenda for a required committee referral. Linda Desmond will begin work on July 11th as Acting Director in the interim.