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For Immediate Release – March 13, 2017

Northampton Senior Services Launches Transportation Program

Beginning today Northampton Senior Services will offer weekday van transportation for Northampton seniors. The city was one of four communities selected to participate in the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Paratransit Pilot Program. The pilot provides the City with a van, maintenance, technical assistance, driver training, and financial reimbursement for each ride.

Mayor David J. Narkewicz, who also serves as Chair of the PVTA Advisory Board, said “I’m excited that this program will be available to Northampton seniors because transportation is a key element to supporting their independence and access to programs and services.”

Northampton Senior Services Director Linda Desmond, who has made creation of this new program a priority since being appointed in July 2016, echoed the Mayor’s enthusiasm, “We are excited to offer this new van service which will make it easier for seniors to attend the wide variety of programming and special events happening daily at the senior center.”

The transportation program, also known as “Dial-a-Ride”, will serve Northampton residents age 60 and older. Transportation will be offered Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30am - 3:00pm. One way rides in Northampton will cost \$1.00 and pre-purchased PVTA tickets will be accepted. The program begins with transportation in-and-around Northampton with expansion to points outside of Northampton in the future. For transportation to a scheduled medical appointment a one-week notice should be given, for all other trips 24-hour notice is needed.

A second van will be added in April thanks to the fundraising efforts of the “Kick the Tires Campaign”. An additional van will allow for out-of-town transportation and special day trips. For more information on the van program or to schedule a ride please call Jennifer Carbery, Transportation Coordinator (413) 584-7979.

The volunteer run medical transportation program will continue to be offered for those needing more personal transportation to medical appointments and PVTA service for ADA eligible individuals will still be available.