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For Immediate Release - January 11, 2018

Northampton's Director of Senior Services Announces Retirement

After almost two years serving as the City of Northampton's Director of Senior Services, Linda Desmond has announced she will be retiring at the end of March. Director Desmond, a Northampton native and long-time city resident, was hired in July 2016 after returning from living and working in Dublin, Ireland for 10 years. Her 40+ year professional career has focused on elder and social services both in Northampton and Ireland.

"Although her time leading our Senior Services Department has been brief, Linda Desmond has accomplished a great deal and helped change the culture of the department and the senior center," stated Mayor David J. Narkewicz. "She launched a very successful senior van transportation program, increased programming, restructured staff, reconfigured meeting space to allow for expanded use, formed advisory groups to inform her decision-making, and most importantly, has been open to new ideas from staff and residents for meeting the diverse and ever evolving needs of our city's seniors."

In speaking on her decision to retire Director Desmond stated "I often remark how I began my career next door from the Northampton Senior Center working for Highland Valley Elder Services which had office space at the Walter Salvo House, and I am honored to conclude my professional career working for Northampton Senior Services. I look forward to becoming a "participant" in the variety of programs offered at the center."

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 brought an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience to this position," said Mayor Narkewicz. "Her compassion, positive energy, and leadership skills have moved the department forward and I wish her the best in her retirement."

The position will be posted soon and Mayor Narkewicz will be appointing a candidate screening committee to advise him on his appointment of a successor.