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Mayor Appoints Marie Westburg New Director of Senior Services

Today Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced the appointment of Marie Westburg as the City of Northampton's new Director of Senior Services, succeeding Linda Desmond who retired on March 30, 2018.

Marie Westburg has an extensive 25+ year background in social services, including seven years in her current position as director of the Town of Williamsburg Senior Center/Council on Aging. During her tenure in Williamsburg, Ms. Westburg has significantly expanded programming and outreach to seniors, formed important collaborations with regional agencies, and been successful in securing grants to support her department's efforts.

Prior to her work at the Williamsburg Senior Center, Ms. Westburg was a business owner and creator of ArtStar Creative Arts Lounge offering contract work with social service organizations, private lessons, workshops, and camps. Her previous professional experience also includes work in the field of mental health as a psychiatric counselor, psychotherapist, and art therapist.

"Marie Westburg has developed an impressive record in our neighbor community as director of the Williamsburg Senior Center and brings to Northampton both a diverse social service background and a palpable commitment to serving and advocating for the ever-evolving needs of seniors," said Mayor Narkewicz in announcing the appointment. "She is a professional and thoughtful leader with the experience and vision to lead our dynamic Senior Services Department. I am excited that she is joining the City of Northampton."

Marie Westburg earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Art in New York City. She also holds a masters degree in Art Therapy from New York University, and a Certificate in Behavioral Health and Aging Training from Boston University. She is also a Registered Art Therapist.

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 April 5th agenda for a required committee referral. Subject to City Council confirmation, Marie Westburg is slated to begin her new role on April 30, 2018.