

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, January 21, 2016

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, the Office of Planning and Sustainability, and the Conservation Commission

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, The *Open Space, Recreation and Multi-Use Plan: 2011-2018* recommends **preserving farmland and conservation areas to serve urban neighborhoods;**

WHEREAS, The state owns 3.1± acres of the former Union Street jail farmland on Venturers Field Road (Map ID 32-051) adjacent to the City’s Meadows Conservation Area and containing some prime farmland, although the farmland has not been used by the state since the Union Street jail closed;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the City of Northampton, through its Conservation Commission is authorized to purchase or otherwise acquire any fee, easement, and/or any other interest in the above land should the state make it available, provided however that the city reserves the right to lease farmland on the site not therefore subject to Article 97;

That the Mayor is authorized to grant a conservation restriction or agriculture preservation restriction (per M.gG.L. C.184, Section 31) on said land;

That the City Council finds the right to farm the land surplus to city needs and authorizes the Mayor to lease the land for farming purposes for terms of up to twenty years

Further, the City requests and petitions that our legislative delegations file legislation substantially as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding sections 32 to 37, inclusive, of chapter 7C of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance may sell, or otherwise grant, convey or transfer to the city of Northampton, under the care and custody of the conservation commission, that certain parcel of land located in said city shown as “Locus: 32-051, N/F Commonwealth of Massachusetts(Inhabitants of Hampshire County) Deed 721, Page 467” delineated on a “Plan of Land in Northampton, MA, Hampshire Registry, Prepared for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management” dated 08-01-2012, recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds at Plan Book 228, Page 14, containing approximately 3.1 acres, together with any buildings and structures thereon, if

any, formerly used as farm for the Hampshire County jail, subject to an agriculture preservation restriction or conservation restriction retained by the Commonwealth under the care and custody of its Massachusetts department of agricultural resources.

SECTION 2. The city of Northampton shall be responsible for all costs and expenses including, but not limited to, costs associated with any engineering, surveys, appraisals and deed preparation related to the conveyance authorized in this subsection as such costs may be determined by the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance.

