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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 14, 2019

NORTHAMPTON HOUSING PARTNERSHIP AND PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION INVITE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO SHARE IDEAS and DEVELOP ACTIONS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO FAIR HOUSING

On May 22, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Northampton Senior Center (67 Conz Street) community members will have an opportunity to help refine proposed, and also develop new actions to overcome identified barriers to fair housing in the city. Volunteers from the Northampton Housing Partnership (NHP) and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) staff will share the findings from the last six months of data collection, research and analysis, stakeholder sessions and focus groups. *The public will be engaged in activities to refine the proposed actions as well as have the opportunity to share new ideas and strategies.*

Some of the specific barriers identified include: the high cost of housing and generational wealth disparity between white people and people of color; limited knowledge of fair housing laws and resources; an inadequate supply of housing needed by economically challenged families with children, the states' lead paint laws, and others.

People who may have struggled to live in Northampton but have figured out how to do so and those who want to live in the city but face barriers are especially encouraged to attend.

Childcare, reimbursements for transportation, and Spanish language interpretation will be available and light refreshments will be provided.

For more information: Contact Peg Keller, Mayor's Office CDBG Director 413-587-1288 or Catherine Ratte, PVPC Principal Planner 413-285-1174.

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