



WHEREAS, babies and children are often exposed to these toxins more than adults because they crawl on the grass and play in parks and on fields and school grounds where turf management practices include the use of pesticides<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the use of pesticides is associated with the precipitous decline of pollinators and birds; in fact: a) most types of bees are in steep decline in the United States and in 2018, Massachusetts beekeepers lost 65 percent of their honey bee hives, a rate 25 percent higher than the national average<sup>5</sup>, and b) the American Bird Conservancy has listed 113 pesticides that have caused direct bird mortality<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, toxic runoff from pesticides pollutes streams, lakes, and drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS, the use of hazardous pesticides is not always necessary to create and maintain landscapes given the availability of viable alternatives; and

WHEREAS, towns, cities, states, and regions all over the world are banning the use of some pesticides and requiring both organic management and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of municipal green space and agricultural areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton hereby establishes a “Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction” as follows:

1. The Council President shall appoint up to ten (10) members to the Committee by April 18, 2019, including:
  - a. Two (2) members of the City Council; and
  - b. Up to eight (8) city residents who possess expertise in the professional fields of agriculture, recreation, forestry, turf management, organic and/or IPM land care, conservation, public health, or other related fields, or who are representatives from the public schools.
2. The Committee shall study and evaluate:
  - a. The city’s current management of turf, conservation areas, and other municipal green space, particularly around schools and other locations where children play;

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<sup>4</sup> Children and Pesticides. National Pesticide Information Center. <http://npic.orst.edu/health/child.html>

<sup>5</sup> Massachusetts Pollinator Advocates Vow to Advance Protections After Legislature Fails to Restrict Neonicotinoids (9 August 2018). Beyond Pesticides. <https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/category/statelocal/massachusetts/>

<sup>6</sup> Mineau, P. & Whiteside, M. (2013). Pesticide Acute Toxicity Is a Better Correlate of U.S. Grassland Bird Declines than Agricultural Intensification. PLoS ONE 8(2): e57457. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0057457>



