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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2020 Senior and Veteran Tax Work-Off Program Applications Available

The Northampton Senior and Veteran Tax Work-Off program is accepting applications for the next program year. The program allows income-eligible seniors and veterans to earn up to a \$1,500 abatement off their property taxes in exchange for volunteering in city departments and entities. In 2019, thirty-seven seniors and veterans participated in the program volunteering 4,224 hours to the city and received a total of \$46,810 in property tax relief. Since the inception of the program in 2014, the city has provided a total of \$146,867 in property tax relief to eligible seniors and veterans and benefited from a total of 14,826 hours of volunteer service.

The Senior Citizen Tax Work-Off Program is open to seniors age 60 and older, who own property in and pay real estate taxes to the City of Northampton. Income limits for the 2020 program follow the Massachusetts Median Income levels. The Veteran Tax Work-Off Program is open to veterans, (as defined by MGL Ch 4 §7 clause 43), regardless of income limits, who own property in and pay real estate taxes to the City of Northampton. Participants in either program must complete 117 hours of service in the program year set to run from January 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020.

Interested seniors and veterans can complete an application online or pick one up in person at the Assessor's Office, Senior Center or Veterans Services Office. Applications for this program year will be accepted on a rolling basis, or until all spaces have been filled however, applications filed by December 20, 2020 will receive priority.

More information on the program can be found by visiting <http://northamptonma.gov/1456/Senior-and-Veteran-Tax-Work-Off-Program> or by contacting the Senior Center at (413) 587-1228 or Veterans Services at (413) 587-1299.