



## **MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ**

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**For Immediate Release – July 29, 2021**

### **Statement of Mayor Narkewicz on Warfield Place Cherry Tree Removal**

NORTHAMPTON - Earlier today, Northern Tree Service, a subcontractor of the city's 2021 paving contractor, Warner Brothers, Inc., removed nine cherry trees on Warfield Place as part of an upcoming Department of Public Works (DPW) reconstruction project. The work was overseen by the DPW Director and a Northampton Police Department construction detail was present to manage and direct traffic according to standard practice. All of the work being performed was on city property and involved municipally-owned public shade trees.

Shortly after the crews arrived, several residents attempted to disrupt the work, and additional police units were called to the project site. Despite repeated requests to not interfere with the highly dangerous work being performed by the tree contractor, two residents were eventually arrested and removed from the scene. One of the two had to be removed from a tree by the Northampton Police Department with the assistance of Northampton Fire Rescue personnel on the western MA Technical Rescue Team. The contractor completed the tree removal and fortunately, there were no reported injuries to workers, residents, or city personnel.

The DPW has conducted an unprecedented level of communication and neighborhood engagement with Warfield Place residents about this project, beginning with an initial letter outlining the project goals in early April, followed by neighborhood meetings with the DPW Director, Tree Warden, and eventually, me. DPW engineers and the Tree Warden have made multiple visits to the street to hear about property-specific issues with the project and have worked diligently to address them.

In recent days, the DPW Director shared an updated plan with neighbors incorporating those changes while still achieving the core project goals of repaving the crumbling roadway, creating an ADA-compliant sidewalk with required wheelchair ramps, and replanting a new, sustainable tree canopy for Warfield Place that could result in a net increase of seven shade trees. The city looks forward to completing work on Warfield Place and in other locations where important street improvement projects are happening around Northampton this construction season.

For additional information, contact the Mayor's Office: [mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov) or 413-587-1249