CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

December 1, 2005

In City Council,
Upon the recommendation of Mayor Mary Clare Higgins and the Economic Development, Housing, and Land Use Committee

Ordered, that

BE IT RESOLVED
WHEREAS, For many years, from the Pleasant/River Redevelopment Project (May, 1975) to the Redevelopment Plan for the Historic Mill River (June, 2002), the city has discussed redeveloping portions of the Round House parking lot for shared parking and downtown vitalization activities; and

WHEREAS, Over the past five years, the former Northampton Parking Commission, the Parking Subcommittee of the Transportation and Parking Commission, the Economic Development, Housing, and Land Use Committee have all endorsed the redevelopment of the northwest corner of the Round House parking lot, provided there would be no net loss in parking spaces available to the general public; and

WHEREAS, As a part of a US EPA funded Brownfields Pilot Grant, Ford Gillen Architects completed the Mill River Study (June 2005) examining the reuse potential of this site and determined that a building can be designed that will fit the context of Pulaski Park, residential and commercial abutting properties; and

WHEREAS, Redevelopment of this site would provide permanent jobs downtown, customers to support downtown businesses, substantial property tax revenue, public infrastructure improvements, additional downtown parking, and would be a model of sustainable development; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
That the City Council finds that the northwest corner of the Round House Parking Lot, being the 47,690 square feet shown as Parcel A on a survey entitled "Roundhouse Re-Use Boundary Survey" on file with the Office of Planning and Development, is surplus to city needs and authorizes the Mayor to sell this property or a portion thereof, in consultation with the city’s Economic Development, Housing, and Land Use Committee and in accordance with state procurement requirements, provided that there be no net loss of public parking spaces on the property and that public access from the parking lot to Pulaski Park be maintained and enhanced; and

Further, City Council authorizes the Mayor to any necessary agreement to relocate an existing parking and utility easements in the northwest corner of the Round House Parking Lot consistent with the redevelopment of this area.