Economic Development Vision Statement 2010

Northampton’s quality of life and its vibrant community are supported by the jobs, wealth, creative energy and civic-mindedness of a dynamic mix of businesses, non-profit organizations, entrepreneurs and artists. Economic development in Northampton has many different aspects:

- **Jobs and tax revenues.** Northampton’s businesses provide good-paying jobs – especially those that import net dollars into the community -- and generate tax revenues, while enhancing Northampton’s quality of life in numerous other ways as well.

- **Smart growth.** Growth in the business activities of Northampton is essential, provided that it is concentrated in areas with appropriate investments in infrastructure and transportation linkages, and provided that such growth retains and enhances the feel and character that makes Northampton such a desirable place to live and work.

- **Housing options.** A range of housing options are available at a variety of affordability levels to serve the workforce that is essential to the economic health of the City.

- **Embrace and manage change.** Today’s vibrant Northampton reflects the inevitability of change in demographic and economic patterns. Northampton anticipates, embraces and manages change.

- **Regional role.** Northampton plays a key role in strengthening the regional economy by encouraging partnerships with educational and health care institutions, and by encouraging the health and growth of other sectors that are already strong, including its restaurants and entertainment venues, its specialized manufacturing sectors, and its retail and service components.

- **Support for business.** Because businesses are recognized as integral to the well-being of the community as a whole, Northampton’s government and citizenry support the responsible growth and prosperity of its businesses through a combination of incentives, transparent and straightforward regulations, and attention to public safety issues.

- **Giving back.** The health of the business community will allow for even more giving back to the variety of municipal and non-profit institutions that provide the education, arts, culture and services that contribute to the community’s quality of life and vibrancy.