

**A RESOLUTION PREVENTING AND OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE NORTHAMPTON  
VA MEDICAL CENTER LOCATED IN LEEDS, MASSACHUSETTS**

(Sponsored by Agawam City Councilors George Bitzas and Robert Rossi)

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**WHEREAS**, nearly 21,000 male and female veterans including veterans from the Town of Agawam rely on the Northampton VA Medical Center for care; and

**WHEREAS**, if the Northampton VA Medical Center closes it will be very difficult and costly for veterans to travel to another facility in Massachusetts and/or Connecticut for their medical needs; and

**WHEREAS**, many veterans struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and anxiety that require immediate services; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Dennis McDonough recommended the closing of the Northampton VA Medical Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs plans to relocate rehabilitation programs and nursing home care to a VA hospital in Newington, Connecticut; as well as other outpatient and mental health services to a clinic in Springfield, Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, our veterans have protected us and served our country, and returned home with mental and physical war wounds and need our help; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has already spent \$108 million to renovate and modernize this facility.

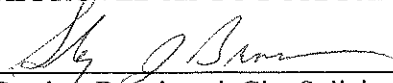
**NOW, THEREFORE, THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL** hereby protests and opposes the closing of the Northampton VA Medical Center in Leeds, Massachusetts and hereby resolves to ask United States Representative Richard Neal, United States Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey along with our state congressional delegation to oppose the closing and ask United States Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Dennis McDonough reverse his recommendation; and the Agawam City Council further resolves to ask Governor Charles Baker, State Senator John Velis and State Representative Nicholas Boldyga to also oppose the closing of the VA Medical Center and leave this facility open for our veterans who deserve our help.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

**PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL**

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Christopher C. Johnson, City Council President

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY**

  
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Stephen Buoniconti, City Solicitor