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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Springfield, MA – [North Citizens Council Inc. (NNCC, Inc.) announces that Springfield City Councilor Maria Perez has been terminated by the organization, effective immediately. Perez, who previously served as Chief of Housing Programs, managed federal HUD funds for the City of Springfield. Her employment was terminated following a thorough internal review and has been referred to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Ethics Commission to ensure integrity and accountability. NNCC strongly condemns the embezzlement of federal funds and the misuse of 501(c)(3) resources for political purposes.

NNCC is a long-standing 501(c)(3) organization with just over 100 employees, offering a wide range of services including childcare, afterschool programs, and comprehensive public health initiatives across the City of Springfield and the surrounding region. 'Our organization is committed to maintaining the public trust and operating with the utmost integrity," said Juana Girona, Board President.

The New North Citizens Council will cooperate fully with the Attorney General's State Ethics Commission in its review. As this is an ongoing matter, the organization's employees or board members will have no further public comment at this time.