



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

**RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET**

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting was televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344 #
- D. Public was permitted to comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors John M. Airasian, Caroline Bays, John Gannon, Nicole Gardner, Lisa J. Feltner, Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Mark Reich, City Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Deborah Petersen – Spoke on behalf of the Resolution supporting Question One on the upcoming ballot.

Devan Scott – Asked the Council to support the Fair Share Resolution. This would provided additional funding for initiatives that are supported by the community. It is not seen as a penalty but as a way to aid the community.

Employee - D&D Pizza & Subs - Discussed concerns about employee parking on Parker Street.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. City Council Meeting Minutes – October 11, 2022

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes as written; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Motion to Move Budget Priority Guideline from November 8, 2022 to November 22, 2000

Council President Sideris stated the motion would not be heard at this meeting.

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS

A. Confirmation of Proclamation Honoring Thomas J. Tracy on His Retirement as City Auditor and Interim City Manager

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm the proclamation honoring Thomas J. Tracy on his retirement as City Auditor and Interim City Manager; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Informational Presentation by the Charles River Association

Mr. Proakis introduced the speakers for the presentation.

The Charles River Watershed Association, founded in 1965, is one of the oldest in the US and works with the EPA, state agencies, and 35 other watershed municipalities to work on climate resilience, education and outreach, river restoration, river science, and stormwater solutions. It was stated the Northeast is 71% affected by intense storms, flooding, heat waves, and drought. In undeveloped landscapes, 50 % of the precipitation is infiltrated into the ground, 40% is evaporated, and 10% is runoff; however in developed landscapes, 15% of the precipitation is infiltrated in the ground; 30% is evaporated; and 55% is runoff indicting that development alters the water cycle, by increasing runoff, creating water pollution, and causing more flooding. The stormwater runoff contains

pollution that comes from everywhere and runs into the river. The major pollutant is phosphorus that comes from decomposing leaves, fertilizers, and detergents.

Dams harm the river because the water becomes stagnant and has low dissolved oxygen causing death to aquatic life. Sediment accumulates leaving excess nutrients and leads to invasive plant growth. The water temperature rises and evaporates causing bacterial blooms. The rushing water from the dam causes erosion and thermal pollution. Fish are prevented from entering providing no spawning habitat. The Watertown Dam is 56 years old and in fair condition. The fish ladder is ineffective blocking American Shad and Rainbow Smelt. CWRA stated it was trying to convince DCR that the removal of the dam is as it does not provide flood control. A study was completed showing that the dam removal is feasible. CWRA recommended Watertown to urge DCR to remove the dam and restore the Charles River; adopt a robust tree ordinance; adopt a stormwater utility; and strengthen the wetlands ordinance to better prepare and respond to climate change.

Council President Sideris stated that he would be working with the Conservation Commission and the City Manager to consider these goals and refer them to Committees for further discussion.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution in Support of the Fair Share Amendment

Council President Sideris read the resolution.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the resolution in support of the Fair Share Amendment; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

In the discussion, some Councilors spoke against the resolution stating that while this is an important issue, it is not within the purview of the City Council. Some were voting for it because it was not a non-partisan issue that would provide funds for matters that directly affect the City.

The motion was adopted on a 5 for the motion, 2 against, and 2 present. Councilors Bays, Gannon, Gardner, Palomba, and Piccirilli voted in the affirmative; Councilors Airasian and Izzo voted in the negative and Councilor Feltner and Council President Sideris voted present.

B. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds in the Amount of \$55,475 to the Watertown Food Pantry from Numerous Donors Since March 30, 2022.

Mr. Proakis stated the City received \$55,475 from various individuals, groups, businesses, and foundations. Donations of \$1,000 or more were received from

- William Aldridge and Kathleen Dorries - \$1,000
- The Chaisson Family Foundation - \$1,000
- Music for Food - \$1,000
- Walden Local Meat - \$1,350
- Pepe’s Pizza Watertown - \$2,500
- Payson Park Church - \$3,000
- Project Bread Walk for Hunger Team Gerald Missal - \$3,268
- Ottavio Forte - \$5,000
- Lodge Piave Fiume 1036 Sons of Italy - \$5,000
- Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation Inc. - \$20,000

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept and expend gifts of funds in amount of \$55,475 to the Watertown Food Pantry from numerous donors since March 30, 2022; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

C. Consideration and Approval of a Revised Version of House Bill 2009 An Act Authorizing the City of Watertown to Adopt an Affordable Housing Linkage Fee

Mr. Proakis stated the Home Rule Petition regarding affordable housing linkage fees was submitted previously to the State Legislature. The bill was being returned with several revisions; therefore, the Council needed to approve the changes and return it for final approval.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve a revised version of House Bill 2009, An Act Authorizing the City of Watertown to Adopt an Affordable Housing Linkage Fee; Councilor Gannon second the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

D. First Reading on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

Mr. Proakis stated this would be the first reading of the request regarding an amendment to the FY 2023 budget to be taken up at the next City Council meeting.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Federal, State, and Regional Government Regarding the Review of Watertown’s Election Processes and Procedures – Nicole Gardner, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

That the City Council Endorse Having Attorney Lauren Goldberg Provided Training for the Election Commissioners, the City Council, and the City Clerk's Office.

Councilor Gardner read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that Attorney Lauren Goldberg provide training for the Election Commissioners, the City Council, and the City Clerk's Office; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Confirmation of the Committee on Personnel and City Organization Report Regarding the Development of a Process for Selecting Candidates for the Position of Municipal Policy Analyst – Caroline Bays, Chair

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm the Committee Report; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business requests.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Update on the Massachusetts Municipal Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code

Mr. Proakis stated that this code was being reviewed. It seems that it will be ready later in the year. In order to use this code, the City must opt-in by December 31, 2022 with it becoming effective on July 31, 2023. Before the Council adopted the code, he wanted to be prepared for an understanding of its provisions. Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the code to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning for a review; Councilor Gardner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the appointment confirmation to the Committee on Education and School System Matters; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Proakis further stated that early voting was underway until November 4, 2022 including weekend days. In person voting will be on November 8, 2022 when the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

12. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

There were no requests for information.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba thanked the Department of Community Development and Planning staff for participating in the community forum “Planning and Zoning in Watertown” on October 18, 2022. He noted that about 35 people took part in the meeting.

He also thanked the nearly 50 residents who attended the Committee on Human Services meeting held on October 24, 2022 regarding the citywide rodent control program. He also thanked WCATV for taping the program and Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health and Tom Watkins, Director of Administration and Finance of the Department of Public Works for attending.

Councilor Izzo announced there would be a District D meet and greet with George Proakis on Thursday, November 3, 2022 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the community room at the Police Station. She stated this would be a great opportunity for district members to introduce themselves to the new City Manager and ask questions of him regarding Watertown.

Councilor Gannon announced the Watertown Boys and Girls Club would be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on October 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hellenic Cultural Center. He encouraged all to join in the festivities.

Council President Sideris stated he would be showing a video showing the design of the new High School at one of the November City Council meetings.

He also stated he had received emails stating the audio was difficult to hear and he apologized for the technical difficulties.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of ___ for, ___ against, ___ present on November 9, 2022.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
WITH REMOTE ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Minutes of the City Council Meeting – October 11, 2022 – Item 4A
2. Proclamation Honoring Thomas J. Tracy, City Auditor and Interim City Manager, on His Retirement – October 11, 2022 – Item 6A
3. Agenda Item Informational Presentation by Charles River Watershed Association – George Proakis, City Manager, to City Council – October 20, 2022 – Item 7A
 - How Can Watertown Build Community Resilience? – Charles River Watershed Association – September 27, 2022
4. Resolution in Support of the Fair Share Amendment – October 25, 2022 – Item 8A
5. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditures Regarding the Gifts of \$55,475 to Support the Food Pantry – George Proakis, City Manager, to City Council – October 20, 2022 – Item 8B
6. Agenda Item – Consideration and Approval of a Revised Version of House Bill 5009 – An Act Authorizing the City of Watertown to Adopt an Affordable Housing Linkage Fee – George Proakis, City Manager, to City Manager, to City Council – October 20, 2022 – Item 8C
7. Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government Report Regarding the Review of Watertown’s Election Processes and Procedures – Nicole Gardner, Chair – October 6, 2022 – Item 9A
 - Inactive Voters – Janet Murphy, City Clerk and Chief Election Officer to George Proakis/Election Commissioners/City Councilors – October 7, 2022
 - Boards of Registrars & Election Commissions – William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
8. Screening Committee for the Municipal Policy Analyst Report Regarding the Development of a Process of Selecting Policy Analyst Candidate Finalists – Caroline Bays, Chair – September 29, 2022 – Item 9B
9. Update on the Massachusetts Municipal Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code – George Proakis, City Manager, to City Council, October 20, 2022 – Item 11A

*Addendum to the
Minutes of the
October 25, 2022
City Council
Meeting*



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Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022 AT 7:00 PM

**RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET**

AGENDA

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- D. The Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

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- 1. ROLL CALL
 - 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - 3. PUBLIC FORUM
 - 4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. Minutes of the City Council Meeting - October 11, 2022
 - 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Motion to Move Budget Priority Guidelines from November 8, 2022 to November 22, 2022
 - 6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS
 - A. Confirmation of Proclamation Honoring Thomas J. Tracy on His Retirement as City Auditor and Interim City Manager
 - 7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Informational Presentation by the Charles River Watershed Association
 - 8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS
 - A. Resolution in Support of the Fair Share Amendment

- B. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds in the Amount of \$55,475 to the Watertown Food Pantry from Numerous Donors Since March 30, 2022.
 - C. Consideration and Approval of a Revised Version of House Bill 2009 An Act Authorizing the City of Watertown to Adopt an Affordable Housing Linkage Fee.
 - D. First Reading on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.
9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- A. Committee on Federal, State, and Regional Government Report Regarding the Review of Watertown's Election Processes and Procedures
ACTION ITEM:
That the City Council Endorse Having Attorney Lauren Goldberg Provide Training for the Election Commissioners, the City Council, and the City Clerk's Office
 - B. Confirmation of the Committee on Personnel and City Organization Report Regarding the Development of a Process for Selecting Candidates for the Position of Municipal Policy Analyst
10. NEW BUSINESS
11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER
- A. Update on the Massachusetts Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Code
 - B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors
12. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS
13. ANNOUNCEMENTS
14. PUBLIC FORUM
15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2022

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2022**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
LISA J. FELTNER	_____	_____	___X___
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	_____	___X___	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	_____	___X___	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	_____	_____	___X___

MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT



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RESOLUTION # 111

2022 – R - 111

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT

WHEREAS: The best way to help working families and build a stronger economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, an affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; and

WHEREAS: Students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics; and

WHEREAS: Major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS: Tuitions and fees at our public colleges are among the highest in the country, and students are forced to take on enormous debt to receive a degree; and

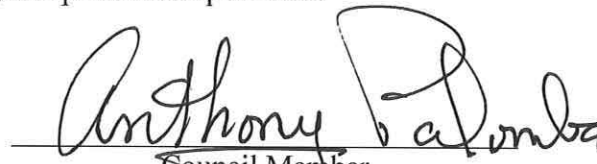
WHEREAS: New state revenue is necessary to improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, and make public higher education affordable again; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and now those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery; and

WHEREAS: Our Commonwealth's highest-income residents, who have seen their collective net worth skyrocket in recent years, pay a lower percentage of their income in state and local taxes than do the rest of us, and clearly have the ability to pay a little more for the investments we all need.

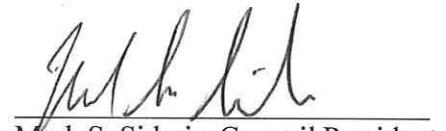
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education,

affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above Resolution was adopted by a vote 5 for, 2 against, and 2 present on October 25, 2022.


Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2022**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT PICCIRILLI	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	___X___	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

MOTION TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND GIFTS OF FUNDS IN AMOUNT OF \$55,475 TO THE WATERTOWN FOOD PANTRY FROM NUMEROUS DONORS SINCE MARCH 30, 2022



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Emily Izzo,
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RESOLUTION # 112

2022 – R – 112

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF GIFT OF FUNDS

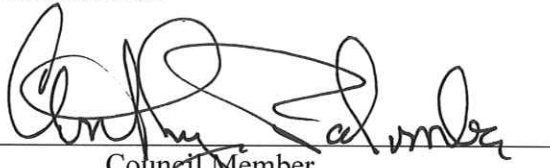
WHEREAS: From time to time, this community is the beneficiary of a gift donated towards improving the quality and spirit of its inhabitants' lives; and

WHEREAS: The Watertown Food Pantry continues to receive generous support of both food and cash donations from various individuals, groups, businesses, and foundations; and

WHEREAS: Total cash gifts of \$55,475 were received from various individuals, groups, businesses, and foundations from March 30, 2022 – October 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS: Donations of are used to purchase food from our partners, including the Greater Boston Food Bank, Fair Foods, Boston Area Gleaners, and various local grocers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown, hereby accepts and appropriates, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, monetary gifts from various individuals, groups, businesses, and foundations.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 9 against, 0 present on October 25, 2022.



Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President



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RESOLUTION #113

2022 – R - 113

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WATERTOWN TO ADOPT AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING LINKAGE FEE.

SECTION 1.

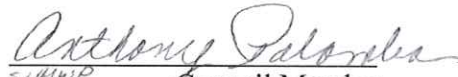
(a) The city of Watertown may, by ordinance, require the payment of an affordable housing linkage fee for any non-residential development, including the commercial portion of a mixed-use project and excluding any development for governmental uses, that: (1) requires zoning relief, including without limitation, a special permit, special permit with site plan review or site plan approval; and (2) contains a single use or combination of uses exceeding a square foot threshold to be determined from time to time by the Watertown city council. For purposes of this act, development shall include the construction, enlarging, expansion, substantial rehabilitation or change of use of non-residential property.

(b) The ordinance shall specify the dollar amount of the linkage fee. The linkage fee initially shall not exceed \$18 per square foot and may be adjusted over time based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, CPI-U, compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ordinance shall specify an initial square foot threshold of 30,000 square feet. The amount of any linkage fee and the square foot threshold shall be reviewed at least every 5 years and reset as required based upon recommendation of the city manager and approval of the city council.

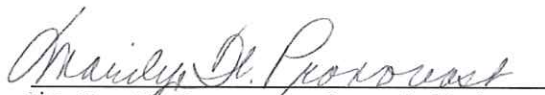
(c) The city may create a distinct and separate revolving fund account into which affordable housing linkage fees shall be paid, and no such fee shall be paid to the city's general treasury or used as general revenues pursuant to section 53 of

chapter 44 of the General Laws. The funds in this revolving fund account shall be administered and expended by the trustees of a municipal affordable housing trust fund established by the city council pursuant to section 55C of chapter 44 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.


S:1/HWP Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 25, 2022.


Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President
S:1/HWP