



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the City Clerk

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**North Adams City Council Meeting**

**May 26, 2020**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the North Adams City Council will be conducted via remote, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, This meeting can be viewed live on the Northern Berkshire Community Television station and will be posted to their website as soon as possible

I hereby notify that at twelve noon today, May 20, 2020, the following items of business have been filed with this office and will be acted upon at the regular meeting in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Tuesday Evening May 26, 2020 at seven-thirty o'clock according to Section 8, Rules and Orders of the City Council.

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

**AGENDA**

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
May 26, 2020

Roll Call  
Moment of silent remembrance  
The Pledge  
Approval of the minutes of May 12, 2020

- 11,874** Mayor's communication #26 requesting time to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 11,790** Communication submitted by Councilor Bona regarding short term rentals and requirements of the City which was postponed at the meeting of January 28, 2020.
- 11,811** Communication submitted by Councilor LaForest requesting a process for appealing to the City Solicitor, which was postponed at the meeting of April 28, 2020.

- 11,812** Communication submitted by Councilor LaForest regarding Public Arts Commission and Planning Board, case number SPA2019-27, Mass MoCA Foundation, Inc., for property located at 25 Marshall Street which was postponed at the meeting of March 26, 2020.
- 11,826** An Ordinance amending the revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams regarding the various fees established in the City Code, which was postponed at the meeting of March 24, 2020.
- 11,840** An Order authorizing a study in regards to the restoration of “children’s pillar art” located at Route 2, bridge Veterans Memorial Drive, which was postponed at the meeting of March 24, 2020
- 11,862** Communication submitted by Councilor Bona regarding the North Adams Youth Commission, which was postponed at the meeting of April 14, 2020.
- 11,875** A Resolution submitted by Councilor Harpin in support of expanded Absentee Voting and Vote by Mail, during the Covid-19 global pandemic.
- 11,876** Communication submitted by Councilor Lamb addressing speed limits and safety concerns in the Autumn Drive and Birchwood Terrace area.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

##### LICENSES

An application from Timothy Randall, 55 Cummings Avenue, Williamstown, MA, for a secondhand license under the business name of Sanford & Kid, located at 160 Houghton Street, North Adams.

##### MAYOR’S CONCERNS

##### LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCILOR CONCERNS

##### CORRESPONDENCE



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor  
**Thomas W. Bernard**

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Communication #	Subject	Date
26	COVID-19 Update	May 26, 2020

Honorable Members of the City Council  
North Adams, Massachusetts

Dear Honorable Councilors:

I request time on the agenda of the May 26, 2020, meeting of the North Adams City Council to provide an update, as well as to address questions and concerns from the Council, regarding the city and regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Bernard  
Mayor

TWB/me



# City of North Adams In City Council

May 26, 2020

Whereas:

## A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDED ABSENTEE VOTING AND VOTE BY MAIL

WHEREAS, voting is a fundamental right and a foundational principle of democracy.

WHEREAS, during the Covid-19 global pandemic a strategy that has proven effective for protecting communities by slowing the spread of the virus is the practice of social distancing and limiting congregating in groups.

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts state primary is September 1, 2020 and the general election is November 3, 2020 and it is unknown if at that time gathering in groups, which is necessary for voting at polls, will be permitted, advisable or if citizens will feel safe exercising their right with in-person voting.

WHEREAS, healthy ballot access is essential to our democratic process, and also to our community health and safety. Every voter in the Commonwealth should be able to exercise their right to vote safely, without fear and without putting their and other's health and the health of their community at risk.

WHEREAS, vote by mail is a proven voting method which has increased voter access and participation without vote loss or voter fraud. Currently, five states vote almost exclusively by mail: Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington. 28 states have "no excuse," or "no fault," mail or absentee balloting. In response to COVID-19, more states are converting upcoming elections to vote by mail to ensure healthy ballot access, including New York, New Hampshire and Maryland.

WHEREAS, Bills S.2654 in the State Senate and HD.5026 in the State House, "An Act establishing vote by mail in 2020," seeks to establish vote by mail in Massachusetts.

WHEREAS, for the September primary and November general elections, the Secretary of the Commonwealth has expanded eligibility for applying for absentee voting. H.4623, sponsored by Representative Paul Mark and Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, would further expand absentee voting to all that apply to vote absentee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Adams City Council asks the Massachusetts Legislature to act with urgency to pass H.4623 to allow absentee voting for all in the upcoming 2020 elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Adams City Council asks the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 2654 and House Docket Bill 5026 to establish a vote by mail program in the Commonwealth for all future elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to the state sponsors of the Act, Senator Rebecca L. Rausch and Representatives Adrian C Madaro; Chairs of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, Senator Barry R. Finegold and Representative John J. Lawn, Jr.; State Senator Adam G. Hinds; State Representative John Barrett III; State Representative Paul Mark; House Speaker Robert DeLeo; Senate President Karen Spilka and Governor Charles Baker.



**Office of the City Council**  
**City of North Adams**  
10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3015



Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Fellow Councilors,

It has been raised to my attention by several residents living on Autumn Drive and Birchwood Terrace that they are experiencing a high number of incidents of individuals driving at unsafe speeds through their residential neighborhood. With an increased number of new and young families on the street, and more children now playing in the area, this concern has intensified. Several "close calls" have made it clear that there is a serious safety concern.

To help mitigate the unsafe behaviors, and to draw more attention to the posted speed limit in the area, the neighbors have requested the installation of several "Slow. Children at Play" signs along the street to help vehicles understand the safety risk of driving fast through the neighborhood.

To those ends, I am asking that the council please refer this communication to the Traffic Commission with the specific requests of the following actions:

- 1- Please identify if adequate posted speed limit signs exist in the neighborhood already.
- 2- If there are not adequate posted speed limit signs, please have said signs installed that meet the existing speed limit ordinance of the City of North Adams.
- 3- Regardless of if speed limit signs are posted or not already, please identify and have installed traffic calming signs in the form of "children at play" signs at 1-2 locations in the area to help drivers understand the density of children playing in the area.

I believe these steps will help to support the neighborhood in that area of the City by making the streets safer for their children and families.

Sincerely,

Councilor Benjamin Lamb

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY OF NORTH ADAMS

FEE \$ 100.00

5 - 16 - 2020  
DATE

I HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION TO BE GRANTED A LICENSE

as a dealer in and keeper of a shop for the purchase, sale, or barter of junk, old metals or secondhand articles as defined in Chapter 10, Section 10-1 and Section 10-2(a) of the Revised Ordinances

Sanford & Kid

in the business name of \_\_\_\_\_

160 Houghton Street

located at \_\_\_\_\_

hours of operation 10 to 5.00 Friday, Saturday, Sunday

I hereby certify that, if granted this license, I will strictly conform and adhere to the laws of the Commonwealth, the ordinances of the City and such rules and regulations as the City Council may establish.

I further certify under the penalties of perjury that I, to the best of knowledge and belief, have filed all State Tax Returns and paid all State Taxes required under law.

\*Signature of Applicant  
or Corporate Name

\*\*Social Security Number  
or Federal Identification Number

55 Cummings Avenue, Williamstown, MA 01267

Residential Address

\* This license will not be issued unless this certification clause is signed by the applicant.

\*\* Your social security number will be furnished to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to determine whether you have met tax filing or tax payment obligations. Licensees who fail to correct their non-filing or delinquency will be subject to license suspension or revocation. This request is made under the authority of MGL Chapter 62C, Section 49A.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The above application is hereby APPROVED X DISAPPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year 2020

Signature

Chief of Police

keeper of a Junk shop  
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