

**CITY RESOLUTION NO.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL PROVIDING A SCOPE FOR  
ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT AND FOR INCIDENTAL  
MATTERS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Hammond City Council, that:

**SECTION 1:** The Building Department includes the Mayor as the Chief Executive Officer and head of the Executive Branch for the City of Hammond, as well as all officials, officers, employees, departments, offices and agencies involved with building permit approval over which the Mayor exercises general executive and administrative authority consistent with Section 3-01 of the Charter or as authorized by Ordinance 04-3023, "Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual for City Employees," as amended.

**SECTION 2:** The Hammond City Council further declares that the scope of its investigation shall also include investigation of third-party entities and/or persons directly or indirectly involved, financially or otherwise, in the subject matters of the specified purposes listed in Section 3 of this Resolution.

**SECTION 3:** This investigation will provide a report to the Hammond City Council for consideration of any action(s) needed to secure and improve the function of its government, and for the specified purposes of determining compliance with the Charter, Federal law, State law, Local law, and Hammond policies and procedures, related to:

- (i) All building permitting activities including all transactions, events, occurrences, facts and/or circumstances, financially or otherwise, involving the issuance of any building permits, decisions regarding the enforcement or non-enforcement of building permits, the access and use of electronic signatures, processes and procedures for securing and protecting data, electronic signatures, evaluating permit applications, issuing permit applications, denying permit applications, the

receipt and expenditure of public funds, use of personnel, employees, assets and/or resources of the City of Hammond, for the period beginning August 27, 2021 and ending November 27, 2024.

- (ii) The receipt and expenditure of public funds, use of personnel, employees, assets and/or resources, of the City of Hammond by the Mayor or at the direction of the Mayor, which benefit anyone personally.
- (iii) Instances of retaliation, or discrimination against personnel in hiring, firing, promotion, demotion, or transfer, by or under the direction of the Mayor, of Building Department personnel, and/or of any other persons concerned.

**SECTION 4:** The Hammond City Council will solicit the services of an independent investigator. The investigator may be an attorney, accountant, urban planner, or of any similar qualifying professional background acceptable to the Hammond City Council, any non-attorney or non-accountant considered shall have specific experience conducting investigative activities. Candidates will be disqualified for selection by any conflict-of-interest.

**SECTION 5:** Until an independent investigator is selected by a majority of the Hammond City Council, the investigator will be the Council President and Councilman Sam N. DiVittorio.

**SECTION 6:** New records produced through the ordinary function of the Building Department will be filed with the Council Clerk weekly for the period of the investigation. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Section shall be punishable by contempt as set forth in the Charter, and any other means provided under the law.

**SECTION 7:** All are encouraged to assist the investigation by submitting a written statement to the Council Clerk of any activities witnessed or suspected contrary to the public interest. Demotion, firing, and or transfer of an employee, officer, or official during or resulting

from their participation in this investigation is retaliatory, obstruction, and a violation of protections established hereby and elsewhere.

**SECTION 8:** All resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are suspended to the extent of same for the period of this investigation.

**SECTION 9:** If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this Resolution which can be given affect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are severable.

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