

**THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO..... DATE.....

APPROVED.....MAYOR

**RESOLUTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTING AMENDMENT OF
THE WARWICK CITY CHARTER REGARDING APPOINTMENT, APPROVAL, AND
SERVICE OF DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS BEGINNING JANUARY, 2025**

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Article XIII, § 8 of the Rhode Island Constitution allows for the legislative body of any city or town to propose amendments to that city or town's charter, which said proposed amendments shall be submitted for approval in the same manner as provided for the adoption of a charter; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 10-29 of the Charter of the City of Warwick provides that all amendments to the Charter be submitted to the voters of the City for approval thereof at a general or special election and said amendments shall not become effective unless a majority of the persons voting upon said question shall approve said amendment or amendments; and

WHEREAS, upon the approval of the General Assembly, the qualified electors of the City of Warwick shall have the opportunity to vote to ratify the proposed amendments at the 2022 general elections; and

WHEREAS, numerous mayoral appointments to various boards of commissions that exercise significant powers safeguarding the public interest, including the health, safety, and welfare of citizens of the City, are subject to the approval or consent of the Warwick City Council pursuant to Article VIII of the Charter of the City of Warwick and Chapter VI of the Ordinances of the City of Warwick; and

WHEREAS, the process of such mayoral appointees gaining the approval or consent of the Warwick City Council provides transparency to the public to participate in public comment and to recognize such appointees and their qualifications; and

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2 WHEREAS, the respective legislative branches of the United States of America, State of
3 Rhode Island, City of Providence, City of Cranston, and numerous other state and local legislatures
4 have the authority and duty to hold public hearings and public votes to consent to executive
5 appointees in positions of department leadership and high-level management and decision-making;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, the process of such mayoral appointees gaining the approval or consent of the
9 Warwick City Council provides an important check and balance between the branches of
10 government; and

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12 WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Warwick City Council to propose amendments to the
13 Warwick City Charter to require the approval of the City Council for the appointment of department
14 directors by the Mayor, so that Warwick voters can decide whether to adopt this amendment.

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16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Warwick City Council requests the General
17 Assembly approve the following amendments to the Warwick City charter:

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19 For elective terms commencing January, 2025, Article III of the Charter of the City of
20 Warwick shall be amended to add the following new section:

21
22 3-11. – Appointment, Approval and Service of Department Directors.

23
24 The Mayor shall appoint department directors, subject to the approval of the City
25 Council, for a duration not to exceed the current elective term of the mayor, and shall
26 serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. In no case shall a person serving under an acting
27 appointment hold office on that basis for more than ninety (90) days, nor shall a
28 regular appointee serve beyond the expiration of the term for which he or she was
29 appointed unless reappointed in accordance herewith.

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a question appearing on the 2022 ballot shall read as
32 follows:

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34 For elective terms commencing January, 2025, shall Article III of the Charter of the City of
35 Warwick be amended to add the following new section:

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37 3-11. – Appointment, Approval and Service of Department Directors.

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39 The Mayor shall appoint department directors, subject to the approval of the City
40 Council, for a duration not to exceed the current elective term of the mayor, and shall
41 serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. In no case shall a person serving under an acting
42 appointment hold office on that basis for more than ninety (90) days, nor shall a
43 regular appointee serve beyond the expiration of the term for which he or she was
44 appointed unless reappointed in accordance herewith.
45

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Senators and Representatives from the City of Warwick.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN RIX

COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL