



**City of Gardner - Executive Department**  
**Mayor Michael J. Nicholson**

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 GARDNER, MA

August 23, 2022

Hon. Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, Council President  
 And City Councilors  
 Gardner City Hall, Rm 121  
 95 Pleasant St  
 Gardner, MA 01440

RE: An Act to Establish a Special Act Charter Drafting Committee

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

The current City Charter was originally drafted ninety-nine (99) years ago, and aside from a few small changes, has remained largely the same over the course of the last century.

In both a spirit of collaboration between the branches of the City's government and a spirit of looking forward, I am asking that the City Council vote to establish a Special Act Charter Drafting Committee to review our City Charter and submit proposed amendments in order to keep the business of the City's government up to date in modern times.

As we approach the document's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I believe it would be prudent to update the Charter to ensure the operations of the City's government are meeting the needs of a modern municipality.

While I fully believe the structure of the City's Mayor-Council form of government works well and fits what this City needs, I do believe that some of the systems and operational aspects of the existing charter could be updated.

Over the past 100 years, our world as a whole has gone through a Great Depression, two World Wars, the Cold War, and a global pandemic. Since the current document was enacted, man has landed on the moon, the airplane was invented, the Berlin Wall was constructed and torn down, the Civil Rights Act was adopted, citizens between the ages of 18 and 21 were given the right to vote, and eighteen (18) individuals have held the office of President of the United States.

In all of the aforementioned events, the world changed and adapted to meet the times - as we as a City must also do. A lot has changed over the past century, and as we move forward to a stronger tomorrow, we must make sure this City has all of the tools and processes it needs to be successful in dealing with the obstacles, issues, and opportunities that were not yet even dreamt of when the current Charter was penned in 1921 and enacted in 1923.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Nicholson  
 Mayor, City of Gardner