



**City of Gardner, Massachusetts  
Office of the City Council**

**CALENDAR FOR THE MEETING**

*of*

**MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**7:30 P.M.**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**\*AMENDED**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. CALL OF THE ROLL OF COUNCILLORS**

**III. OPENING PRAYER**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**V. ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN MEETING RECORDINGS**

Any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the Chair forthwith. All documents and exhibits used or referenced at the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the City Clerk, as they become part of the Meeting Minutes.

**VI. READING OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)**

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**11199** – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Allen Street – to install 1 Jointly Owned Pole on Allen Street beginning at a point approximately 430 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Allen Street and Winslow Street. Install 1 Jointly Owned Pole #7 for new houses.  
*(In the City Council and Referred to Service Committee 3/4/2024; Public Hearing 3/18/2024)*

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**11207** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor's Appointment of Linda Dembek, to the position of Disability Commission Member, for term expiring March 4, 2027.  
*(Appointments Committee)*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**11208** – A Measure Authorizing the FY2024 Community Development Block Grant Mini Entitlement Plan.

## **ORDERS**

**11209** – An Order Appropriating \$77,318.00 from Free Cash to the IT Department – City Hall Cyber Security System Account. *(Finance Committee)*

**11210** – An Order Appropriating \$49,000.00 from Free Cash to the Mayor's Unclassified Professional Services Grant Writing Expense. *(Finance Committee)*

**\*11213** – An Order Appropriating \$55,500.00 from Free Cash to the Elections & Registration Department for Election Officer Salary and Professional Services Expenses. *(Finance Committee)*

## **ORDINANCE**

**11211** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, to add a new Chapter 15 to be entitled "Agricultural Commission." *(Welfare Committee)*

## **IX. PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.**

**11203** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner Chapter 600, Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", Section 41, Entitled "Handicapped Parking" – Central Street, from a point 33 feet from the corner of Maple Street eastly for 40 feet (2 spaces). *(Safety Committee)*

**11204** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner Chapter 600, Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", Section 24, Entitled "Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets" – Edgell Street, from Elm Street to Lawrence Street. *(Safety Committee)*

**11205** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner Chapter 600, Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", Section 24, Entitled "Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets" – Park Street, from Cottage Street to Central Street. *(Safety Committee)*

**11206** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner Chapter 600, Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", Section 24, Entitled "Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets" – Pine Street, from West Lynde Street southerly for a distance of 50 feet. *(Safety Committee)*

**11212** – Election of the City Clerk. *(Finance Committee)*

## **X. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

- 11127** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Thomas Zuppa, to the position of Building Commissioner, for term expiring January 9, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11129** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Dane Arnold, to the position of Public Works Director, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11130** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Michael F. Ellis, to the position of Senior Citizen’s Director, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11134** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Carla J. Wojtukiewicz, to the position of Trustee, Williams-Rockwell Educational Gift Fund, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11135** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Robert Rice, Esq., to the position of Trustee, Williams-Rockwell Educational Gift Fund, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11139** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Robert Bettez, to the position of Planning Board Member, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11140** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Robert Swartz, to the position of Planning Board Member, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11141** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Stephen Cormier, to the position of Planning Board Member, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11142** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Charles LeBlanc, to the position of Board of Assessors, for term expiring January 4, 2027 *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*
- 11143** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Rick Germano, to the position of Local Inspector, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*

**11144** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of James E. Imprescia, to the position of Plumbing & Gas Inspector, for term expiring January 4, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*

**11150** – A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Timothy Horrigan, to the position of Redevelopment Authority, for term expiring January 8, 2027. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Appointments Committee 1/16/2024)*

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**11086** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner Chapter 600, Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”, Section 24, Entitled “Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets” – Comee Street. *(In the City Council and Referred to the Public Safety Committee 11/6/2023; More Time 11/20/2023, 12/4/2023, 12/18/2023, 1/2/2024, 1/16/2024, 2/5/2024, 2/20/2024, 3/4/2024)*

**11115** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner Chapter 600, Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”, Section 24, Entitled “Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets.” – Douglas Road. *(In the City Council & Referred to Safety Committee 12/18/2023; More Time 1/2/2024, 1/16/2024, 2/5/2024, 2/20/2024, 3/4/2024)*

### **SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**11199** – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Allen Street – to install 1 Jointly Owned Pole on Allen Street beginning at a point approximately 430 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Allen Street and Winslow Street. Install 1 Jointly Owned Pole #7 for new houses. *(In the City Council and Referred to Service Committee 3/4/2024; Public Hearing 3/18/2024)*

## **XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR RECONSIDERATION**

**11112** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses. *(Submitted by Councilor Dana Heath; In the City Council, Referred to Planning Board 12/4/2023; More Time 12/18/23, 1/2/2024, 1/16/2024, 2/5/2024; Ordered to First Printing 3/4/2024; First Printing 3/8/2024)*

**11113** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to Change the Method to Increase the Quota Allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner. *(Submitted by Councilor Dana Heath; In the City Council, Referred to Planning Board 12/4/2023; More time 12/18/23, 1/2/2024, 1/16/2024, 2/5/2024; Ordered to First Printing 3/4/2024; First Printing 3/8/2024)*



**11180** – An Order Appropriating \$625,000.00 from Stabilization to DPW Salt Shed.  
*(In the City Council and Referred to Committee of the Whole 2/5/2024; More  
Time 2/20/2024, 3/4/2024)*

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

**XII. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REMARKS**

**XIV. CLOSING PRAYER**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

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Items listed on the Council Calendar are those reasonably anticipated by the Council President to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

\***Amended**, item #\***11213** – An Order Appropriating \$55,500.00 from Free Cash to the Elections & Registration Department for Election Officer Salary and Professional Services Expenses, was added to the calendar.



**CITY OF GARDNER  
MASSACHUSETTS 01440-2630**

OFFICE OF THE  
**CITY CLERK**

Room 121, City Hall  
Tel (978) 630-4058  
Fax (978) 630-2589

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**NOTICE TO ABUTTERS**

March 11, 2024

TO ABUTTERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L., c. 166, §22, you are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be conducted on **MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024 at 7:30 o'clock P.M.** on the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company, d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, for permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public ways:

ALLEN STREET – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., - to install 1 Jointly Owned Pole on Allen Street beginning at a point approximately 430 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Allen Street and Winslow Street. Install 1 Jointly Owned Pole #7 for new houses.

A sketch of the proposed pole location is attached for your edification.

CITY COUNCIL OF GARDNER

By: TITI SIRIPHAN  
City Clerk

**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT****CITY OF GARDNER**

50 Manca Drive, Gardner MA 01440

Robert E. Oliva, City Engineer  
Telephone (978) 630-8195  
roliva@gardner-ma.gov

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**PROJECT REVIEW MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Elizabeth Kazinskas, Council President

**Cc:** Dane Arnold, DPW Director  
Titi Siriphan, City Clerk

**From:** Robert Oliva – City Engineer *REO*

**Date:** March 12, 2024

**Project:** National Grid City Council Pole Petition – Allen Street  
Council Item #11199

National Grid has submitted a pole petition for adding a new pole on Allen Street for the purpose of servicing two new house lots. It should be noted that while the petition does not state it explicitly, the sketch included with the petition indicates a proposed guy wire to support this pole. I would recommend including approval of the guy wire in any vote taken on the petition.

I have inspected the proposed location, reviewed the petition application, and have no other comment on the petition at this time.

**nationalgrid**

RECEIVED  
2024 FEB 21 PM 3:43  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

January 26, 2024

City of Gardner

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON, covering joint NATIONAL GRID-VERIZON pole location(s)

If you have any questions regarding this permit please contact:

Please notify National Grid's Vincent LoGuidice of the hearing date / time.

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to each of the above named Companies.

National Grid Contact: Vincent LoGuidice; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845. Phone 978-725-1392.

Very truly yours,

Patrick Shea  
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

RECEIVED

2024 FEB 21 PM 3:43

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

Questions contact – Will Fontaine 508-414-7308

**PETITION FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS**

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council  
Of Gardner, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Allen St - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Allen St beginning at a point approximately 430 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Allen St and Winslow St. Install 1 JO Pole # 7 for new houses.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Allen St - Gardner - Massachusetts.

No. **30922033** January 26, 2024

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a  
NATIONAL GRID *Pat Shea*

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering Department

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.  
BY \_\_\_\_\_

Manager / Right of Way

RECEIVED

2024 FEB 21 PM 3:43

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA**ORDER FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS**

To the City Council - Gardner, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,  
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and  
VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC. (formerly known as NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND  
TELEGRAPH COMPANY) be and they are hereby granted joint or identical locations for and  
permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such  
sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary, in the public way or  
ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Companies dated the 26th day of  
January, 2024.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the  
points indicated upon the plan marked – Allen St - Gardner - Massachusetts.

No. 30922033 Dated January 26, 2024. Filed with this order.

There may be attached to said poles by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and  
Verizon New England Inc. such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of  
said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be  
erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Allen St - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Allen St beginning at a point approximately 430  
feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Allen St and Winslow St. Install 1 JO Pole # 7 for  
new houses.

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or  
intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as  
each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the  
of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Massachusetts held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.

Massachusetts

City/Town Clerk.  
20\_\_

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
Book \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, M  
at \_\_\_\_\_ a public hearing was held on the petition of  
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

for permission to erect the poles, wires, and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded, and  
that we mailed at least seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said  
hearing to each of the owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for  
taxation) along the ways or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect  
poles, wires, and fixtures under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

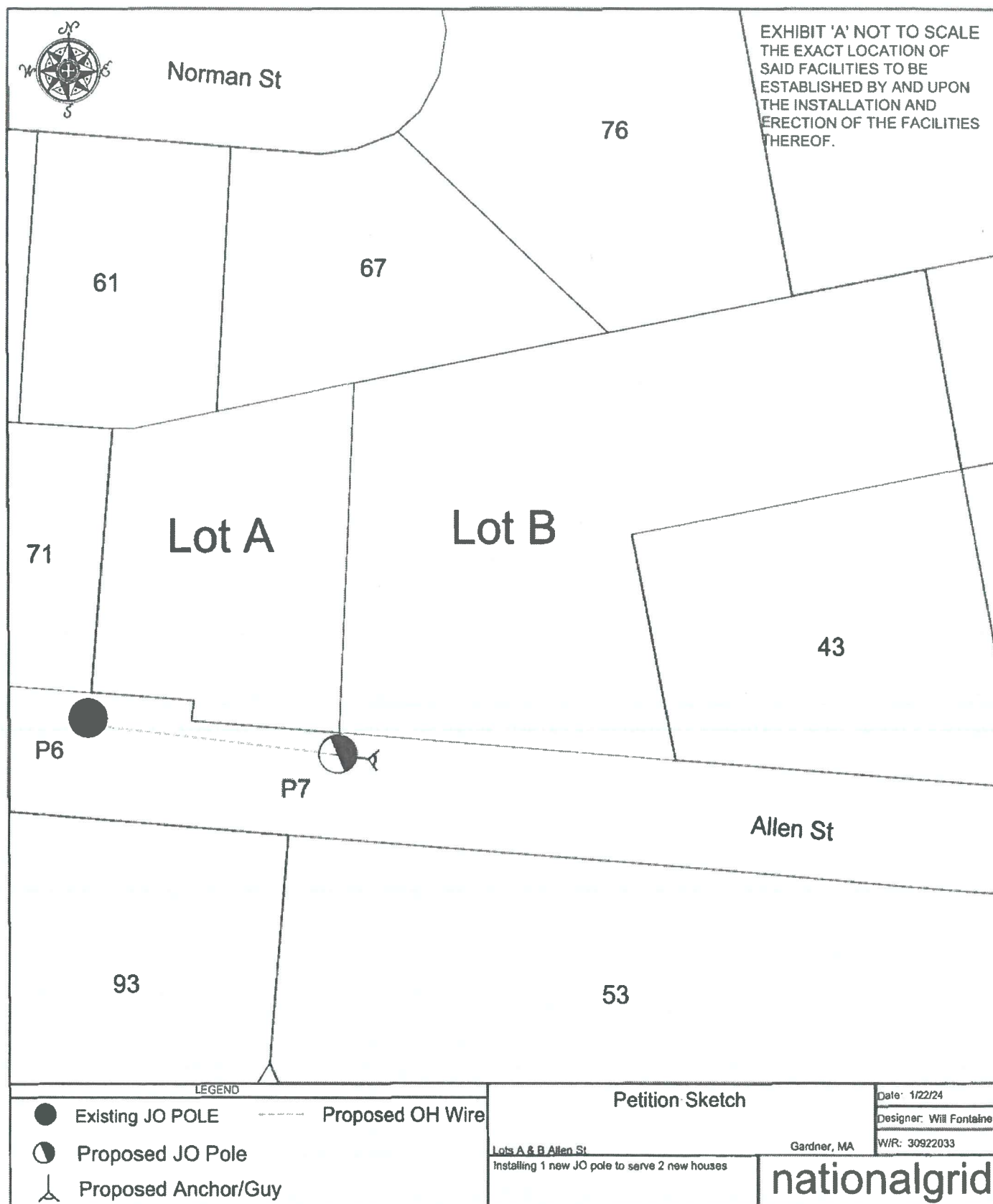
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Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of  
hearing with notice adopted by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the City of \_\_\_\_\_  
Massachusetts, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and recorded with the  
records of location orders of the said City, Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_. This certified copy  
is made under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or  
amendments thereof.

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk





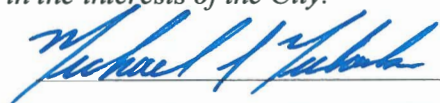
March 4, 2024

RECEIVED

2024 MAR -4 PM 1:01  
Worcester County  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA**Commonwealth of Massachusetts****City of Gardner****CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT**

I appoint **Linda Dembek** to the position of **Member, Disability Commission**, and I certify

that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.

 Mayor

Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Titi Siriphan

Expires: March 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named **Linda Dembek** and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **Member, Disability Commission** according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_



City of Gardner - *Executive Department*

Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

March 12, 2024

Hon. Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, Council President

And City Councilors

Gardner City Hall, Rm 121

95 Pleasant Street

Gardner, MA 01440

RECEIVED  
2024 MAR 14 PM 12:49  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

RE: FY2024 Community Development Block Grant Mini-Entitlement Resolution

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

I hereby submit the FY2024 Community Development Block Grant Mini-Entitlement Plan Resolution for your consideration, and respectfully ask that the City Council vote to endorse the resolution so that a copy of said resolution may be included in the grant application package to be submitted by the Administration by the March 23, 2024 deadline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson

Mayor, City of Gardner

## **RESOLUTION**

### **FY 2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT Mini-Entitlement Plan**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the proposals prepared by the Department of Community Development and Planning for inclusion within the FY 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mini-Entitlement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG proposals seek funding for support of public social services, demolition, and associated administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the activities proposed within the FY 2024 CDBG Mini-Entitlement Plan meet the priorities identified within the City's 2022-2025 Community Development Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the City does not possess the bonding capacity or have the availability of funds to appropriate from its general budget to undertake such projects and reliance upon grant funds is required, and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports each of the activities as being consistent with the City's goal of promoting quality programs for its citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council hereby extends its support of each proposed activity and endorses the City's FY 2024 CDBG Mini-Entitlement Plan to be submitted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Housing and Community Development.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>CDBG \$'s</u>	<u>Non-CDBG \$'s</u>	<u>Total</u>
Community Development & Planning	<b>Demolition of Slum &amp; Blight - Demolish School Street School - 53 School Street</b>	\$752,000.00	\$130,300.00	\$882,300.00
Social Service / Non Profit Programs	<b>Gardner Athletic Program - User Fee</b>	\$15,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$38,000.00
Social Service / Non Profit Programs	<b>Gardner Emergency Housing Mission (GEHM)</b>	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Social Service / Non Profit Programs	<b>Voices of Truth - Domestic Violence Prevention</b>	\$12,000.00		\$12,000.00
Social Service / Non Profit Programs	<b>Gardner Community Action Committee - Food Program</b>	\$16,000.00	\$5,216.00	\$21,216.00
	<b>Estimated Administrative &amp; Delivery costs.</b>	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	\$125,000.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$925,000.00</b>	<b>\$163,516.00</b>	<b>\$1,088,516.00</b>

## FY2022 – FY2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The City of Gardner's Community Development Strategy summarizes the City's various efforts to engage in community-based planning and priority setting, staying consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principals, and to outline a plan of action intended to accomplish specific community development goals. The current Community Development Strategy (CDS) will be used to direct resources from all sources toward projects that address the needs identified by the community as high priorities. Acting through its Department of Community Development and Planning, using specifically CDBG funds, projects will lie within the boundaries of the Downtown Urban Renewal Area (D-URA) and the Mill Street Corridor Urban Renewal Area (MSC-URA).

**Housing: Expansion and Retention.** This category is consistent with Concentrate Development and Mix Uses and Expand Housing Opportunities.

The City of Gardner is committed to expanding housing opportunities in appropriate locations to meet the needs of Gardner's population. Gardner has partnered with local and regional non-profit organizations to enhance and rehabilitate properties creating safe and affordable housing and repairing dilapidated buildings. Many of the properties in the D-URA are mixed use properties with retail or commercial endeavors on the first floor and residential or other commercial uses on the upper floors, which due to a variety of reasons, remain mostly vacant. In order to facilitate the redevelopment of these vacant properties, and others throughout the City, the City must increase the quantity and availability of parking, expedite the process for taking control of tax title properties, assess current zoning and promote smart growth districts, address storm water management practices, and partner with local agencies and developers to invest in the existing infrastructure. The City must also continue to support residents by partnering with local banks and non-profit agencies to identify properties that are in pre-foreclosure, distribute information regarding the availability of foreclosure counseling, assist with post-foreclosure issues. Education to first time homebuyers is also crucial in foreclosure prevention.

**Economic Development.** This category is consistent with Concentrate Development and Mix Uses, Advance Equity, Increase Job and Business Opportunities and Plan Regionally.

There are two distinct economic development goals in the City of Gardner – to diversify the local economy and increase job opportunities by encouraging and facilitating retention and expansion of Gardner-based businesses as well as attracting new businesses to Gardner while promoting reinvestment in older industrial and commercial properties. To that end, the City will continue to coordinate economic development efforts by maintaining funding for the Economic Development Coordinator (EDC) position. Within the role, the EDC will continue to implement the approved urban renewal plans; identify and develop a new industrial business park; assist and expand training opportunities for the local workforce; provide support to new and existing businesses throughout Gardner by organizing company tours with potential partners; act as a conduit between the City and the Chamber of Commerce, Square Two, NewVue Communities and other organizations for marketing and technical support such as sign and façade improvements, marketing, business expansion efforts and networking with other business owners; and partner with local non-profit agencies to assist in challenges facing the local workforce such as job training, job-related transportation issues, job-related childcare, education and financial literacy and self-sufficiency programs.

**Open Space and Recreation.** The Sustainable Development principles relevant to this section are to Protect Land and Ecosystems and Use Natural Resources Wisely.



The City of Gardner has a fully updated Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) that received conditional approval in October of 2023. The City is working on supplying the necessary documentation for final approval. The overall purpose of the OSRP is to provide Gardner's residents with a diverse system of interconnected open space areas and quality recreational opportunities that protect natural resources, promote public health, and enhance the quality of life. Enhancing the quality of life in a community must maintain a careful balance between equity, environment and economy. To meet the overall goal of the OSRP, it is important that the City focus on acquiring additional open space parcels, or more effectively utilize existing open space land; improve management and maintenance of existing municipally owned open space, including land and bodies of water; increase opportunities for recreation along the Otter River and other waterways; complete the North Central Pathway in partnership with the Town of Winchendon connecting both downtowns; add new equipment and increase maintenance of existing equipment at the existing recreation facilities; look for opportunities to acquire land, or repurpose existing land, for additional recreational facilities and/or fields; construct, replace, and maintain a sidewalk, multi-use trails, and bike lane networks throughout the City to ensure a safe multi-modal, walkable community; adopt a reduced salt policy; and promote the benefits of donating open space.

**Transportation.** The Sustainable Development Principle of Provide Transportation Choice is most relevant to this section.

The City's goals include increasing access to transportation options and ensuring safe, accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities, including those with disabilities, allowing safe and convenient travel throughout the City. To that end, the City continues to advocate for increased bus service to allow working parents and the underemployed better access to childcare facilities and employment opportunities; upgrading State Route 2 and improvements to the Community Rail System serving Northern Worcester County, to include the recent addition of the North Central Pathway Connector on Park Street; promote walking and biking opportunities within the City and advocate for bicycle racks on buses to allow travel between communities for recreational purposes; apply appropriate Smart Parking standards and strategies in the target areas and increase the availability of parking the target areas for all travel modes; continue to upgrade the sidewalks to ADA/MAAB standards and repair deteriorated infrastructure which includes preparing and implementing a pavement management plan; provide better traffic control features such as line painting and cross walks; and increase the enforcement of traffic laws and ordinances.

The City has entered into a Community Compact with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and has created a Complete Streets Policy outlining its commitment in obtaining its transportation goals. The City has received two grants from MassDOT to implement the Complete Streets Plan. The more recent grant was combined with a MassTrails Grant to constructed part of the North Central Pathway Connector while the past grant upgraded sidewalk infrastructure and incorporated a bike lane connecting downtown to the City's southern border with Hubbardston.

**Special Needs.** This category does not tie in to the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles but is an important component to the Community Development Strategy of the City of Gardner.

It is important the residents of Gardner have equal access to municipal and regional services, activities and programs. To the that end, the City will continue to evaluate its ADA Transition Plan and make recommendations where necessary; provide auxiliary aids and services that allow municipal communication improvement; increase the support available to persons having special needs, including,

but not limited to, the elderly, the homeless, victims of domestic violence, low and moderate income persons and the disabled; expand partnerships with local and regional health, social and human service providers; support efforts of private developers to create affordable and market rate senior housing; expand existing City efforts to rehabilitate substandard housing, particularly inaccessible, multi-family buildings; continue to upgrade the existing infrastructure with ADA compliant curbs and ramps to make travel more accessible; and provide support to address public health priorities including those dealing with addiction, mental health and physical disabilities.

### **FY2022 – FY2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRIORITY LIST**

1. Reconstruct or alter streets, sidewalks, and public buildings to allow for handicap accessibility and to encourage pedestrian travel. – Year 1-3. Additional funding potential through the Complete Streets program as well as local City funding.
2. Upgrade existing infrastructure, particularly in the Downtown Urban Renewal Area and Mill Street Corridor Urban Renewal Area. Year 1-3.
3. Apply appropriate “Smart Parking” standards and strategies and increase availability of parking in the Downtown Urban Renewal Area. Year 1-3.
4. Implement the approved Downtown and Mill Street Corridor Urban Renewal Plans. Years 1-3.
5. Restore, enhance, build and support diverse recreational facilities and/or activities. Year 2/3. Additional funds through PARC and MassTrails grants and other recreational sources.
6. Implement the Open Space and Recreation Plan including, but not limited to, acquiring, protecting, and maintaining open space and environmentally sensitive lands. Years 1-3. See #6.
7. Support and expand economic security and self-sufficiency programs. Year 1-3
8. Work cooperatively with all area for-profit, non-profit and service agencies to implement the CDS. Years 1-3.
9. Selectively demolish buildings that are beyond reuse in the Target Area and those outside the Target Area that pose an immediate threat to public safety and health. Year 2-3.
10. Rehabilitate dilapidated buildings within the Target Area (Downtown Urban Renewal Area and Mill Street Corridor Urban Renewal Area). Year 1-3
11. Attract and assist businesses opening in, relocating to, or already existing in, Gardner. Years 1-3.
12. Redevelop vacant or underutilized land and buildings, particularly in the Urban Renewal Areas. Year 3.
13. Rehabilitate non-code compliant, and/or construction of, affordable single and multi-family homes. Years 1-3.

## City of Gardner

### **FY 2024 Mini-Entitlement**

Selected Target Area Demolition: Funds would be used to demolish School Street School – 53 School Street located in the target area.

Voices of Truth Domestic Violence Services: Voices of Truth will provide counseling and support for LMI at risk men, women, and children as well as implementing programs comprised of solutions to barriers that LMI Gardner domestic violence victims face.

Gardner Emergency Housing Mission (GEHM): GEHM provides transitional housing for homeless Gardner families, allowing them to regain stability while retaining dignity. GEHM assists Gardner families with first and/or last months rent, utilities, and other costs for Gardner families before they become homeless.

Gardner Community Action Committee – Food Program: The Gardner CAC seeks to employ a part-time individual to assist with all feeding and food programs of the Agency. This project enables the CAC to serve more LMI families and individuals with fresh, healthy food.

Gardner Public Schools Athletics Program: Gardner Public Schools will provide financial assistance to LMI Gardner student athletes at Gardner High School and Gardner Middle School to offset user fees.



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

2024 MAR 14 PM 12:56

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 12, 2024

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

RE: Free Cash Appropriation Request- City Hall Cyber Security System Upgrades

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

The attached appropriation request is being submitted at the recommendation of the City's IT Department to help improve the City's cyber security system and protect the City's network and data.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO THE IT DEPT - CITY  
HALL CYBER SECURITY SYSTEM ACCOUNT.

ORDERED:

That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Seventy-Seven Thousand  
Three Hundred Eighteen Dollars and No Cents (\$77,318.00) from Free Cash to the IT  
City Hall Cyber Security System Account.



**Whalley Computer Associates, Inc**  
 One Whalley Way  
 Southwick, Massachusetts 01077  
 United States  
<http://www.wca.com>  
 (P) 413-569-4200  
 (F)

**Quotation (Open)**

<b>Date</b> Feb 08, 2024 01:57 PM EST	<b>Expiration Date</b> 03/09/2024
<b>Modified Date</b> Feb 08, 2024 02:04 PM EST	
<b>Quote #</b> 399049 - rev 1 of 1	
<b>Description</b> Rubrik Quote - 38 Month Licensing 2024	
<b>SalesRep</b> Edgley, Danielle (P) 413-569-4236	
<b>Customer Contact</b> O'Keefe, Bob (P) 978-630-4019 rokeefe@gardner-ma.gov	

**Customer**

City of Gardner - IT  
 Department (CITGA)  
 O'Keefe, Bob  
 95 Pleasant Street  
 Room 229  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 United States  
 (P) 978-630-4019

**Bill To**

City of Gardner - IT Department  
 O'Keefe, Bob  
 95 Pleasant Street  
 Room 229  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 United States  
 (P) 978-630-4019  
 rokeefe@gardner-ma.gov  
 CITGA

**Ship To**

City of Gardner - IT Department  
 O'Keefe, Bob  
 95 Pleasant Street  
 Room 229  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 United States  
 (P) 978-630-4019  
 rokeefe@gardner-ma.gov  
 CITGA

**Customer PO:****Terms:**

Purchase Order (Net 30 Days)

**Ship Via:**

Best Way

**Special Instructions:****Carrier Account #:**

#	Image	Description	Part #	Tax	Qty	Unit Price	Total
1		R6304S APPLIANCE 36TB 64GB 10GBASE-T SMC	RHA-6304S-02	Yes	1	\$13,650.00	\$13,650.00
2		SC GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE EDITIOCLDS N /USABLE BETB PREMIUM SUPPORT PR	RS-BT-EE-RSCG-PE-PP	Yes	12	\$3,790.00	\$45,480.00
Note: Associated HW: RHA-6304S-02; 38 month support term billed upfront							
3		PREM SUP FOR R6000S HARDWARE PREPAY	RS-HW-SVC-PE-S1	Yes	1	\$5,168.00	\$5,168.00
Note: Associated HW: RHA-6304S-02; 38 month support term billed upfront							
4		CV GOVC BACKUP/BETB PREMIUM SUPLICS BACKUP/BETB PREMIUM SUPPORT PREPAY	RS-BT-CVB-G-PE-PP	Yes	10	\$592.00	\$5,920.00
Note: 38 month support term billed upfront; Storage Details:Standard - Zone 1							
5		PROFESSIONAL SVCS ONSITE INSTALLATION	RA-PS-INST-ONST	Yes	1	\$7,100.00	\$7,100.00

MHEC F05 State Contract

**Subtotal:** \$77,318.00  
**Tax (.0000%):** \$0.00  
**Shipping:** \$0.00  
**Total:** \$77,318.00

**\*\* Due to the global product shortages and the volatility of pricing during the COVID-19 pandemic, prices are subject to change without prior notice. \*\***

Remittance Address: PO Box 951 Worcester, MA 01613-0951

These prices do NOT include setup fees, or any cables or cabling services or material unless specifically listed above. Supply subject to availability.



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

RECEIVED  
2024 MAR 14 PM 12:56  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 12, 2024

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

RE: Free Cash Appropriation Request- Grant Writing Services

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

As you may remember, at the City Council Meeting of March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the City Council voted to appropriate funds to contract with the Central Massachusetts Planning Commission (CMRPC) to act as the City's on call grant writers.

As I stated in that correspondence, following the COVID-19 Pandemic, there have been over 2,700 new grant programs that have been created by the Federal Government through an influx of one-time funds that were appropriated by Congress as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, CARES Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and others. These grants are all still in existence and are currently expected to expire at the end of the 2026 calendar year.

While we do have certain staff positions that do regularly write grants for the City, the substantial increase in grant opportunities that are now available are simply too much for us to be able to continue adequately apply for and administer in house.

In the year since we contracted with CMRPC for \$60,000, the City has been awarded over \$2 million in grant funds that they have assisted in helping us through the applications for. The return on this investment has been substantial for us in the City, in particular with our infrastructure projects.

However, while working with CMRPC to write these grants has been extremely beneficial to the City, this contract assisted the City with only writing the grants and left City staff to administer the grants and perform all of the reporting requirements on our own.

After soliciting quotes, per the requirements of the General Laws, and weighing options, the Administration is looking to contract with Keller Partners and Company to assist us in our grant writing and administration for the next seven (7) months. Keller Partners is a nationwide grant writing and administration service located in Washington, DC who specializes in federal grants. The staff of the organization, who are mainly former congressional staffers, receive a monthly project list from the City made up of items on our capital improvement plan, development goals,

infrastructure goals, etc, and then search out those grants for the City, write the grants, and then draft all necessary reporting documents if the grants are awarded.

Additionally, unlike our current contract and most others who the administration contacted for quotes, this company provides these services for a flat monthly fee and not on an hourly basis, which also allows the City to apply for more grants at less of a cost.

In speaking with the leaders of Keller Partners, the Administration is looking at entering into a seven (7) month contract for now just to see how this new set up would work and to get us through to the end of the federal fiscal year in October. At that point, a longer term plan will be evaluated on how best to move forward for the City.

Keller Partners has informed us that if we contract with them for this service, we will be their only Massachusetts client. Furthermore, there is legislation pending that was filed with the legislature by Governor Healey regarding the Commonwealth providing all of the required matches needed for federal grants to cities and towns who receive them in Massachusetts, making this grant cycle that much more competitive and incentivized. This has already passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives and is pending in the State Senate.

We have already seen our initial investment in the City through these services have a forty fold return. Every dollar that comes in over what we appropriate annually and spend for these services is a huge benefit that helps us take projects off of our operating budgets and free up funds for us to be able to provide better quality services to our residents.

While Keller Partners specializes in Federal Grants, the City Administration is exploring ways to best capture all of the state grants that are being released as well and will present that plan to the City Council at a later date. There is simply such an influx of funding that is now being released that even with the extra help this year, we simply just cannot keep up with it at both the state and federal level.

I respectfully request that the City Council vote to appropriate the funds needed to enter into this contract and allow the Administration to move forward in obtaining every dollar we can for our residents. The money is out there and if we don't go for it, someone else will. This upholds our fiduciary responsibility we have to our constituents by bringing their tax dollars back home for their benefit.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO MAYOR  
UNCLASSIFIED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES GRANT WRITING EXPENSE.

ORDERED:

That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$49,000.00) from Free Cash to Mayor Unclassified Professional Services Grant Writing Expense.



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# KELLER PARTNERS

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& COMPANY

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## Service Agreement

City of Gardner ("Gardner"), MA, agrees to retain Keller Partners & Company, LLC ("Keller Partners"), Washington, DC, for government relations' services commencing on **April 1, 2024**, through to **October 31, 2024**. Both parties agree that at or near the conclusion of this Agreement, Gardner and Keller Partners will evaluate this working relationship and will decide if another contractual partnership is warranted.

Gardner agrees to pay Keller Partners **\$7,000** per month for seven (7) months (a total of \$49,000) billed monthly in advance, which includes all expenses except for those associated with pre-approved basic travel to and from Gardner for the Resource Review and Analysis (RRA) process. Payment shall be made to Keller Partners on or before the first (1st) of each month at the address listed on the invoice(s). Federal funds may not be used to pay Keller Partners professional fees.

In its capacity as a consultant, Keller Partners shall make its best effort to assist Gardner in pursuing its federal funding and government relations' objectives. The nature of these objectives shall be determined by Gardner leadership with the advice and assistance of Keller Partners. In this role, Keller Partners shall plan and implement all federal government relations strategies designed to accomplish Gardner's federal funding objectives; assist in the preparation and writing of grant applications and supporting materials for the initiative; develop meetings with Members of Congress, congressional staff, and federal agency decision-makers to advance funding initiatives; and serve as liaison to federal agencies relevant to the funding initiatives.

Gardner agrees to frequent communication with Keller Partners and to provide Keller Partners' staff the necessary information, in real time, to help Keller Partners plan and implement its strategies, and to assist with providing information for the preparation of funding proposals.

The undersigned parties agree to indemnify and hold each other harmless from and against all liability, including all actions, claims, damages, costs, and attorneys' fees, which the undersigned may incur (or to which the undersigned may be involved), arising out of express statements made by the undersigned and their personnel or based upon information provided by the undersigned and their personnel, except in the event of wrongful acts or omissions on the parts of the undersigned, and/or from any actions which are contrary to any law, rule or regulation governing the services hereunder.

Neither party shall assign any of its rights or delegate any of its duties or obligations under this Agreement without the express written consent of the other party.



Thomas C. Keller  
Managing Principal  
Keller Partners & Company, LLC

The Honorable Michael Nicholson  
Mayor  
City of Gardner, MA

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

March 12, 2024

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

RE: Appropriation Request – City Clerk Election Division

RECEIVED  
2024 MAR 15 AM 9:12  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

As a result of the additional costs associated by the City from the Special State Senate Election and the required materials that needed to be issued regarding the local ballot question about the City Charter, the budget of the City Clerk's Election Division is currently in deficit.

The attached appropriation request is being put forward to bring these accounts back into the black.

The regular municipal election and the presidential primary were already budgeted for. These overages were incurred as a result of new items that were not anticipated when the original operating budget was adopted on June 6, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner



AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO ELECTIONS &  
REGISTRATION DEPT FOR ELECTION OFFICER SALARY AND PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES EXPENSE.

*ORDERED:*

That there be and is hereby transferred the appropriations sum of Fifty-Five  
Thousand Dollars, Five Hundred and No Cents (\$55,500.00) from Free Cash to the  
Elections & Registration Dept for election officers salary and professional services  
expense.

Election Officers Salary Expense	\$40,000.00
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Professional Services Expense	\$15,500.00
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**City of Gardner - *Executive Department*****Mayor Michael J. Nicholson**

March 12, 2024

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

RECEIVED  
2024 MAR 14 PM 12:49  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

RE: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, to add a new Chapter 15 to be entitled "Agricultural Commission"

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

Recently, a group of residents have created a grassroots group to advocate for the creation of an agricultural commission in the City to be created under the provisions of the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

The attached ordinance proposal is being submitted to following this group's advocacy efforts.

Copies of the petitions and letters of support received by the Administration are attached to this correspondence, as well as the provisions of Section 8L of Chapter 40 of the General Laws.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER  
15 TO BE ENTITLED, "AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION"**

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Gardner as follows:

**Section 1:** That a new Chapter 15 be added to the Code of the City of Gardner, to be entitled, "Agricultural Commission" as follows:

**Section I: Name**

There is hereby established an Agricultural Commission in the City of Gardner.

**Section II: Purpose**

The purpose of the Agricultural Commission is to support, encourage, and promote agriculture within the City of Gardner, and shall promote agricultural-based economic opportunities in the City. The Agricultural Commission shall also focus on improving access to fresh and local produce, providing oversight for the operation of a farmers market, and enabling community educational events.

**Section III: Establishment and Authority**

1. The Agricultural Commission is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 8 (L).
2. The Agricultural Commission shall have the authority to:
  - a. Investigate, study, and make recommendations concerning agricultural issues within the City of Gardner and advise the Mayor, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, and other local organizations on projects and activities.
  - b. Oversee, engage, and promote agricultural-based economic opportunities.
  - c. Oversee and support the operations of a farmers market within the city.
  - d. Collaborate with local farmers, businesses, and educational institutions to enhance the agricultural community with programs and events.
  - e. Act as mediators, advocates, educators and/or negotiators on farming issues.
  - f. Reporting on its projects and activities on an annual basis within the Annual Report of the City

**Section IV: Membership**

1. The Commission will consist of five resident members including members from the active farming community of Gardner, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by majority vote of the City Council.
2. Members will be appointed for one-year terms and are eligible to be re-appointed. Up to five alternates may also be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council, each for one-year terms.

3. Members of the Agricultural Commission shall be residents of the City of Gardner, with a demonstrated interest or experience in agriculture, business, education, or related fields.
4. Members may include representatives from local farming communities, educational institutions, business owners, and concerned citizens.

#### Section V: Meetings and Quorum

1. The Agricultural Commission shall meet at least 10 times per year.
2. A quorum for Agricultural Commission meetings shall be 3 members.

#### Section VI: Officers

1. The Agricultural Commission shall elect officers annually, including a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary.
2. The Chairperson shall preside over meetings, the Vice Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson in their absence, and the Secretary shall keep records of Agricultural Commission proceedings and post minutes.
3. The Agricultural Commission Chairperson shall not be eligible for longer than three consecutive years.

#### Section VII: Duties and Responsibilities

1. Agricultural Education:
  - a. Promote educational programs that increase awareness of agriculture and its importance in the community.
  - b. Collaborate and support the local schools on agricultural programs.
  - c. Identify alternative ways to promote and provide access to gardening space and fresh produce for the city residents.
2. Supporting Local Agriculture:
  - a. Advocate for policies that support local farmers and agricultural businesses.
  - b. Explore opportunities for agricultural grants, incentives, and funding.
3. Farmers Market Oversight:
  - a. Oversee and explore new farmers market opportunities in the City
  - b. Work with local vendors and stakeholders to organize and oversee the farmers market.
  - c. Establish and enforce guidelines for market vendors and oversee market manager.
4. Improving Access to Fresh Produce:
  - a. Explore initiatives to increase access to fresh and locally grown produce for all residents, including underserved populations.
  - b. Collaborate with local organizations to implement programs like community gardens or food assistance programs.

**Section 2:** That this ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

**Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education**

I wholeheartedly support establishing a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, creating essential by-laws, and incorporating educational outreach. Despite common misconceptions, Gardner boasts a thriving agricultural sector that deserves recognition.

By developing clear by-laws, the AgCom can ensure the fair and effective operation of our farmers' market, supporting local farmers and enhancing community engagement. This oversight aligns with the AgCom's broader mission of providing a local voice for farmers and promoting the visibility of farming in our community.

Furthermore, integrating educational outreach initiatives will play a vital role in dispelling misconceptions about the absence of farms in our town. The AgCom's efforts can highlight the diverse agricultural activities taking place, fostering a more informed understanding among residents.

I am confident that the Gardner AgCom, with its emphasis on farmers' market oversight and education, will contribute significantly to the growth and recognition of our local agricultural community. I urge the Town Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[illegible]



[illegible]

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) Proposal

Dear Mayor Mike,

As a proud resident of Gardner, I am wholeheartedly in favor of establishing a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Gardner, contrary to common misconceptions, is home to a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

The development of clear by-laws by the AgCom is crucial to ensuring the fair and effective operation of our farmers' market. This initiative will actively support local farmers, improve access to locally sourced foods, and enhance community engagement. It aligns perfectly with AgCom's broader mission to provide a local voice for farmers and promote the visibility of farming in our community.

Moreover, integrating educational outreach initiatives will be pivotal in dispelling misconceptions about the absence of farms in our town. The AgCom's efforts can spotlight the diverse agricultural activities taking place, fostering a more informed understanding among residents.

I am confident that the Gardner AgCom, with its emphasis on farmers' market oversight and education, will significantly contribute to the growth and recognition of our local agricultural community. I urge the Town Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to these valuable resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Shelby Chappell*

Date 12/14/23

Your Name Shelby Chappell

Address 547 Partridge St. Gardner, MA 01440

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) Proposal

Dear Mayor Mike,

As a proud resident of Gardner, I am wholeheartedly in favor of establishing a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Gardner, contrary to common misconceptions, is home to a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

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I am confident that the Gardner AgCom, with its emphasis on farmers' market oversight and education, will significantly contribute to the growth and recognition of our local agricultural community. In addition to expressing my support, I would like to express my interest in participating on the AgCom to contribute actively to this essential community initiative.

I urge the Town Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to these valuable resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Kendal M. Royer

Date 12/14/23

Your Name Kendal M. Royer

Address 53 Olde Colonial Drive, Unit #3  
Gardner, MA



Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) Proposal

Dear Mayor Mike,

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I urge the Town Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to these valuable resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Date 12/14/2023

Your Name Natalia Hutton

Address 28 Wasq Street, Gardner, MA 01440-1845

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) Proposal

Dear Mayor Mike,

As a proud resident of Gardner, I am wholeheartedly in favor of establishing a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Gardner, contrary to common misconceptions, is home to a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

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I urge the Town Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to these valuable resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Date 12/14/2023  
Your Name J. Philip Huth  
Address 28 Wasa Street, Gardner, MA 01440-1845

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) Proposal

Dear Mayor Mike,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Date 12/14/23

Your Name Patricia A. Bergstrom Patricia A. Bergstrom

Address 194 Central St #126, Gardner MA 01440

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Dear Mayor Mike,

As a proud resident of Gardner, I am wholeheartedly in favor of establishing a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Gardner, contrary to common misconceptions, is home to a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Date 12-16-23

Your Name

Tammy Erdmann

Address

183 Regan Street, Gardner

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Dear Mayor Mike,

As a proud resident of Gardner, I am wholeheartedly in favor of establishing a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Gardner, contrary to common misconceptions, is home to a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Date 12/21/23

Your Name Jason Bosse

Address 435 Partridge St, Gardner MA 01440



Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Dear Mayor Mike,

As a proud resident of Gardner, I am wholeheartedly in favor of establishing a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Gardner, contrary to common misconceptions, is home to a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

The development of clear by-laws by the AgCom is crucial to ensuring the fair and effective operation of our farmers' market. This initiative will actively support local farmers, improve access to locally sourced foods, and enhance community engagement. It aligns perfectly with AgCom's broader mission to provide a local voice for farmers and promote the visibility of farming in our community.

Moreover, integrating educational outreach initiatives will be pivotal in dispelling misconceptions about the absence of farms in our city. The AgCom's efforts can spotlight the diverse agricultural activities taking place, fostering a more informed understanding among residents.

I am confident that the Gardner AgCom, with its emphasis on farmers' market oversight and education, will significantly contribute to the growth and recognition of our local agricultural community. I urge the City Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to these valuable resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn J Meany*

Date 12/21/2023

Your Name Carolyn Meany

Address 414 Partridge St. Gardner, MA 01440

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) Proposal

Dear Mayor Mike,

As a proud business owner in Gardner, I wholeheartedly support the establishment of a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Contrary to common misconceptions, Gardner boasts a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

The creation of clear by-laws by the AgCom is vital for ensuring the fair and effective operation of our farmers' market. This initiative will actively support local farmers, improve access to locally sourced foods, and enhance community engagement, aligning seamlessly with AgCom's broader mission to provide a local voice for farmers and promote the visibility of farming in our community.

Furthermore, the integration of educational outreach initiatives will play a pivotal role in dispelling misconceptions about the absence of farms in our town. The AgCom's efforts can spotlight the diverse agricultural activities taking place, fostering a more informed understanding among residents.

I am confident that the Gardner AgCom, with its emphasis on farmers' market oversight and education, will significantly contribute to the growth and recognition of our local agricultural community. I urge the Town Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to these valuable resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Date 12/12/23  
Your Name M. J. Z.  
Business Name CrossFit 696  
Address 696 West Broadway

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Proposal for Gardner Agricultural Commission - Farmers' Market Oversight and Education

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) Proposal

Dear Mayor Mike,

As a proud business owner in Gardner, I wholeheartedly support the establishment of a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Contrary to common misconceptions, Gardner boasts a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

The creation of clear by-laws by the AgCom is vital for ensuring the fair and effective operation of our farmers' market. This initiative will actively support local farmers, improve access to locally sourced foods, and enhance community engagement, aligning seamlessly with AgCom's broader mission to provide a local voice for farmers and promote the visibility of farming in our community.

Furthermore, the integration of educational outreach initiatives will play a pivotal role in dispelling misconceptions about the absence of farms in our town. The AgCom's efforts can spotlight the diverse agricultural activities taking place, fostering a more informed understanding among residents.

I am confident that the Gardner AgCom, with its emphasis on farmers' market oversight and education, will significantly contribute to the growth and recognition of our local agricultural community. I urge the Town Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to these valuable resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Date 12/14/2003

Your Name ANNE LEBLANC

Business Name JOHN'S SPORT SHOP

Address 38 MAIN ST GARDNER



Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom)

Dear Mayor Mike,

*VP of MAAC, VP WLF, VC Sterling Ag Comm. member LFW Steering Comm.*

I am writing as the ~~President of Sterling Ag, Mass Farm Bureau~~ <sup>my</sup> and Owner of Pineo Family Farm, to express our strong support for the establishment of the Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) and to their oversight of the Gardner Farmers Market. We believe this initiative aligns seamlessly with our shared commitment to promoting equitable access to healthy food and fostering environmental sustainability.

*VP MAAC VP Wore City*

Through my role as ~~President of Sterling Ag and Mass Farm Bureau~~ <sup>VP MAAC VP Wore City</sup>, I have dedicated myself to advancing the interests of local farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The Gardner AgCom and Farmers Market represent a significant step towards realizing our common objectives and fulfilling our mission.

The goals outlined by the Gardner AgCom, particularly making fresh, healthy food more accessible, improving well-being, and building community pride and connections, deeply resonate with my dedication to supporting local farmers and sustainable agriculture.

The strategies drafted for the Gardner AgCom, such as providing resources for community gardening, promoting sustainable food practices, and facilitating direct-to-consumer sales of affordable and healthy food, strongly align with our vision for a thriving agricultural community.

I am excited about the positive impact the Gardner AgCom and Farmers Market can have on the community and am eager to collaborate in any capacity to ensure its success. I am prepared to provide support, share resources, and actively engage in initiatives that promote healthy people and healthy communities.

Thank you for your commitment to this valuable project, and we look forward to the positive changes it will bring to the community.

Sincerely,

~~Mike Pineo~~

Pineo Family Farm

~~MA Farm Bureau~~

~~Sterling Agriculture Commission President~~

~~President, Sterling Agricultural Commission~~

978-833-6574

*Michael S. Pineo*

*MAAC VP Wore City Farm Bureau*

*VC Sterling Ag Comm*

*Member LFW Steering Committee*

Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440

Subject: Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) Proposal

December 17, 2023

Dear Mayor Nicholson,

As a recent purchaser of a farm and garden business in Gardner, we wholeheartedly support the establishment of a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing the Gardner's farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating agricultural educational outreach. Contrary to common misconceptions, Gardner boasts a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment. We know because a lot of that energy flows through our store.

The creation of clear by-laws by the AgCom is vital for ensuring the fair and effective operation of Gardner's farmers' market. This initiative will actively support local farmers, improve access to locally sourced foods, and enhance community engagement, aligning seamlessly with AgCom's broader mission to provide a local voice for farmers and promote the visibility of farming in our community.

Furthermore, the integration of educational outreach initiatives will play a pivotal role in dispelling misconceptions about the absence of farms in our town. The AgCom's efforts will spotlight the diverse agricultural activities taking place, fostering a more informed understanding among residents.

We're confident that the Gardner AgCom, with its emphasis on farmers' market oversight and education, will significantly contribute to the growth and recognition of Gardner's agricultural community. We urge the Town Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to locally grown products of all kinds from food to flowers, fibers to forage, fats to fuel.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. L. Altobelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

ML Altobelli

The Good Earth Farm and Garden Center

633 West Broadway

Gardner, MA 01440



Mayor Mike Nicholson Office of the Mayor of Gardner, MA, 01440  
Subject: Letter of Support for Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom)

Dear Mayor Mike,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Growing Places to express our wholehearted support for the establishment of the Gardner AgCom. We believe that this initiative aligns seamlessly with our shared mission and goals in promoting equitable access to healthy food and environmental sustainability.

At Growing Places, our mission is to inspire and connect the North Central MA community to create equitable access to healthy food and environmental sustainability through education, collaboration and advocacy. The Gardner AgCom represents a crucial step towards achieving our shared goals and fulfilling our mission.

The goals outlined by the Gardner AgCom, particularly in supporting the small farmers and making fresh, healthy food more accessible, improving well-being, and building community pride and connections, resonate deeply with our organizational objectives. We understand the importance of fostering healthy habits, increasing social connections, and advocating for a socially just regional food system.

The strategies employed by the Gardner AgCom, including providing educational resources for our community, promoting sustainable food practices, and increasing access to fresh affordable healthy local food, strongly align with our values and direct services. We appreciate the commitment to building cultural knowledge and competency, as well as securing the necessary resources to serve the mission effectively.

We are excited about the positive impact the Gardner AgCom can have on the community and look forward to aligning our efforts to ensure its success. Thank you for your commitment to our local food system and this valuable policy and system change for the City.

Sincerely,

Date: 12/21/2023

Name: Ayn Yeagle - Growing Places, Executive Director

Address: 325 Lindell Ave, Leominster, MA 01453

208 Coleman Street  
Gardner, MA 01440  
P: 978-632-0934  
F: 978-630-3337



11211

I/DD Services  
SUD Services  
Transit Services  
[www.gaamha.org](http://www.gaamha.org)

December 12, 2023

Mayor Michael J. Nicholson  
City of Gardner  
95 Pleasant St.  
Room 125  
Gardner, MA 01440

Dear Mayor Nicholson,

I am writing to you to express GAAMHA's emphatic support for the establishment of a Gardner Agricultural Commission (AgCom) with a specific focus on overseeing our farmers' market, crafting essential by-laws, and integrating educational outreach. Contrary to common misconceptions, Gardner boasts a thriving agricultural sector that deserves acknowledgment.

As you are aware, GAAMHA is an active participant in this sector and is using agriculture as a modality to improve the lives of local youth and adults experiencing challenges related to substance use and mental health. Our program participants at our Evergreen Grove campus on Green St have recently begun growing specific crops in collaboration with Growing Places which will made available to local residents and create revenues that will help support our non-profit mission. Additionally, GAAMHA is currently exploring our capacity to act as an institutional purchaser of locally grown produce in an effort to provide healthy, locally grown food for our residential programs and strengthen our local economy.

The creation of clear by-laws by the AgCom is vital for ensuring the fair and effective operation of our farmers' market. This initiative will actively support local farmers, improve access to locally sourced foods, and enhance community engagement, aligning seamlessly with AgCom's broader mission to provide a local voice for farmers and promote the visibility of farming in our community.

Furthermore, the integration of educational outreach initiatives will play a pivotal role in dispelling misconceptions about the absence of farms in our town. The AgCom's efforts can spotlight the diverse agricultural activities taking place, fostering a more informed understanding among residents.

I am confident that the Gardner AgCom, with its emphasis on farmers' market oversight and education, will significantly contribute to the growth and recognition of our local agricultural

208 Coleman Street  
Gardner, MA 01440  
P: 978-632-0934  
F: 978-630-3337



I/DD Services  
SUD Services  
Transit Services  
[www.gaamha.org](http://www.gaamha.org)

community. I urge the City Council to consider and endorse this comprehensive proposal, recognizing its potential to showcase Gardner's agricultural richness and improve access to these valuable resources.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn P. Hayden'.

Shawn P. Hayden, LADC-II  
Vice President



## **Part I** ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

### **Title VII** CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS

#### **Chapter 40** POWERS AND DUTIES OF CITIES AND TOWNS

##### **Section 8L** MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Section 8L. (a) For the purposes of this section "farming" and "agriculture" shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in section 1A of chapter 128.

(b) A municipality which accepts this section may establish a municipal agricultural commission to promote and develop the agricultural resources of the municipality. Unless otherwise restricted by law, a municipal agricultural commission may: (i) buy, hold, manage, license or lease land for agricultural purposes; (ii) educate the public on agricultural issues; (iii) advocate for farmers, farm businesses and farm interests; (iv) assist farmers in resolving municipal problems or conflicts related to farms; (v) seek to coordinate agricultural-related activities with other governmental bodies or unofficial local groups or organizations that promote agriculture; (vi) receive grants, gifts, bequests or devises of money or personal property of any nature and interests in real property in accordance with this section; (vii) apply for, receive, expend and act on behalf of the municipality in connection with federal and state grants or programs or private grants related to local agriculture, with the approval



of the mayor or city manager in a city or the board of selectmen in a town; and (viii) advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets related to local agriculture that the municipal agricultural commission deems necessary for its work.

(c) A commission may conduct research and prepare agricultural-related plans, including a comprehensive local agricultural land plan which shall be, to the extent possible, consistent with any current town master plan and regional area plans. The plan shall show or identify: (i) agricultural land areas and facilities; (ii) matters which may be shown on a tract index under section 33 of chapter 184; (iii) acquisitions of interest in land under this section; (iv) municipal lands that are held as open space; (v) nonmunicipal land subject to legal requirements or restrictions to protect that land or use it for open space, conservation, recreation or agriculture; (vi) land that should be retained as a public necessity for agricultural use; and (vii) any other information that the commission determines to be relevant to local agricultural land use. The commission may amend the plan whenever necessary.

(d) The commission may appoint a chair, clerks, consultants and other employees and may contract for materials and services as it may require, subject to appropriation by the municipality.

(e) The commission shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report with the clerk of the municipality. The commission's annual report shall be posted on the municipality's public website and, in a town, shall be printed in the annual town report for that year.

(f) A commission shall consist of not less than 3 nor more than 7 members who shall be residents of the municipality. A majority of members shall be farmers or employed in an agriculture-related field. If farmers or persons employed in agriculture are not available to serve on the commission, then the commission shall include a majority of members with knowledge and experience in agricultural practices or knowledge of related agricultural business. Each member of the commission shall serve for a term of 3 years; provided, however, that the initial members appointed under this section shall serve for terms of 1, 2 or 3 years and the terms shall be arranged by the appointing authority so that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the commission's members shall expire each year.

In a city, the members of a commission shall be appointed by the mayor unless otherwise provided by the city's charter; provided, however, that in a city having a Plan D or Plan E charter, the appointments shall be made by the city manager unless otherwise provided by the city's charter. In a town, the members of the commission shall be appointed after a public hearing by the board of selectmen; provided, however, that in a town having a town manager form of government, the appointments shall be made by the town manager subject to the approval of the board of selectmen.

A member of a commission may be removed for cause by the appointing authority after a public hearing if a hearing is requested by the member. A vacancy created by a member being removed for cause shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

(g) A commission may receive gifts, bequests or devises of personal property or interests in real property as described in this subsection in the name of the municipality, subject to the approval of the city council or board of selectmen, as the case may be. The commission may purchase interests in the land only with funds available to the commission. A city council or a town meeting may raise or transfer funds so that the commission may acquire in the name of the municipality, by option, purchase, lease or otherwise, the fee in the land or water rights, conservation or agricultural restrictions, easements or other contractual rights as may be necessary to acquire, maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of or conserve and properly utilize open spaces in land and water areas within the municipality. The commission shall manage and control the interests in land acquired under this subsection. The commission shall not take or obtain land by eminent domain.

The commission shall adopt rules and regulations governing the use of land and water under its control and prescribe civil penalties, not exceeding a fine of \$100, for a violation.

(h) A municipality may appropriate money to an agricultural preservation fund of which the treasurer of the municipality shall be the custodian. The treasurer shall receive, deposit or invest the funds in savings banks, trust companies incorporated under the laws of the commonwealth, banking companies incorporated under the laws of the commonwealth which are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or national banks or invest the funds in: (i) paid up shares and accounts of and in cooperative banks; (ii) shares of savings and loan associations; or (iii) shares of federal savings and loan associations doing business in the

commonwealth. Any income derived from deposits or investments under this subsection shall be credited to the fund. Money in the fund may be expended by the commission for any purpose authorized by this section.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER CHAPTER 600, ENTITLED  
“VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”, SECTION 41, ENTITLED “HANDICAPPED PARKING”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Section 41, of Chapter 600 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled  
“Handicapped parking” be amended by removing the following

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Central St	South	From a point 33 feet from the corner of Maple Street easterly for 40 feet (2 spaces)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER CHAPTER 600, ENTITLED  
“VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”, SECTION 24, ENTITLED “PARKING PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Section 24, of Chapter 600 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled “Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets” be amended by adding the following

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Edgell Street	North	From Elm Street to Lawrence Street



AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER CHAPTER 600, ENTITLED  
“VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”, SECTION 24, ENTITLED “PARKING PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Section 24, of Chapter 600 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled “Parking  
Prohibited on Certain Streets” be amended by adding the following

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Park St	South	From Cottage Street to Central Street

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER CHAPTER 600, ENTITLED  
“VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”, SECTION 24, ENTITLED “PARKING PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Section 24, of Chapter 600 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled “Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets” be amended by adding the following

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Pine St	West	From West Lynde Street southerly for a Distance of 50 feet



MARCH 14, 2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Worcester County*

*City of Gardner*

### CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

*We elect **Titi Siriphan**, to the position of **City Clerk** and certify that in our opinion she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that we make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President, City Council of Gardner*

Elected by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

Term of Office Effective \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titi Siriphan, City Clerk

Expires *March 14, 2027*.

*Worcester, ss.,* \_\_\_\_\_ 2024

*Then personally appeared the above named **TITI SIRIPHAN** and made oath that she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **CITY CLERK** according to law and the best of her abilities.*

*Before me,*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Justice of the Peace*

*Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983*

*Received* \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

January 9, 2024

2024 JAN 11 AM 10 00

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

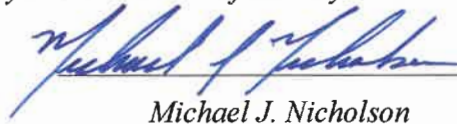
Worcester County

CITY CLERKS OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

City of Gardner

## CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

I appoint **Thomas Zuppa** to the position of **Building Commissioner**, and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.

 Mayor  
Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk

Expires: January 9, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named **Thomas Zuppa** and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **Building Commissioner** according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

January 4, 2024

2024 JAN 11

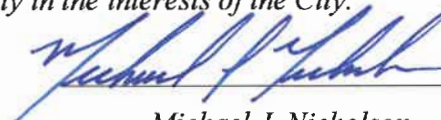
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
WORCESTER, MA  
Worcester County

City of Gardner

## CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

I appoint Dane Arnold to the position of Public Works Director and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.

 Mayor  
Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk

Expires: January 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named Dane Arnold and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of Public Works Director according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

January 4, 2024

2024 JAN 11 AM 8:38

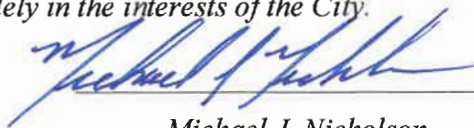
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
Worcester County  
GARDNER, MA

City of Gardner

## CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

I appoint Michael F. Ellis to the position of Senior Citizen's Director, and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.

 Mayor  
Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk

Expires: January 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named Michael F. Ellis and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of Senior Citizen's Director according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_



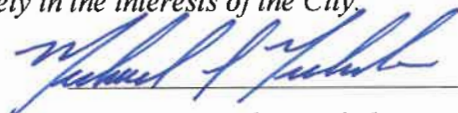
January 4, 2024

RECEIVED

2024 JAN 11 AM 8:38

Worcester County  
CLERK OF COURSE  
GARDNER, MA**Commonwealth of Massachusetts****City of Gardner****CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT**

I appoint Carla J. Wojtukiewicz to the position of Trustee, Williams-Rockwell Educational Gift Fund, and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.



Mayor

Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Titi Siriphan

Expires: January 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named Carla J. Wojtukiewicz and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of Trustee, Williams-Rockwell Educational Gift Fund according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

January 4, 2024

RECEIVED

2024 JAN 11 AM 8:38

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

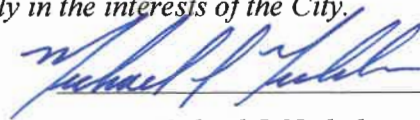
Worcester County

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

City of Gardner

**CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT**

I appoint **Robert Rice, Esq.** to the position of **Trustee, Williams-Rockwell Educational Gift Fund,** and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.



Mayor

Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Titi Siriphan

Expires: January 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named **Robert Rice, Esq.** and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **Trustee, Williams-Rockwell Educational Gift Fund** according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

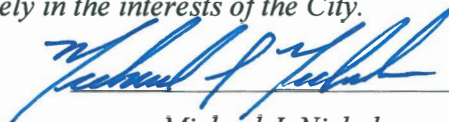
RECEIVED

January 4, 2024

2024 FEB -2 11:06:06

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts****Worcester County****City of Gardner****CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT**

I appoint **Robert Bettez** to the position of **Member, Planning Board**, and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.

 Mayor  
Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk

Expires: January 4, 2025

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named **Robert Bettez** and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **Member, Planning Board** according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

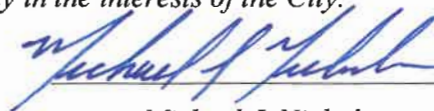
RECEIVED

January 4, 2024

2024 JAN 11 AM 8:39

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**Worcester County  
GARDNER, MA**City of Gardner****CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT**

I appoint **Stephen Cormier** to the position of **Member, Planning Board**, and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.



Mayor

Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Titi Siriphan

Expires: January 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named **Stephen Cormier** and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **Member, Planning Board** according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

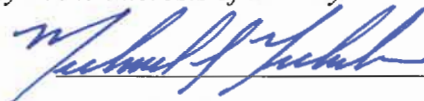
January 4, 2024

2024 JAN 11 AM 8:45

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
Worcester County  
GARDNER, MA**City of Gardner****CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT**

I appoint Charles LeBlanc to the position of Member, Board of Assessors, and I certify

that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk

Expires: January 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named Charles LeBlanc and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of Member, Board of Assessors according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

January 12, 2024

2024 JAN 12 AM 10:17

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

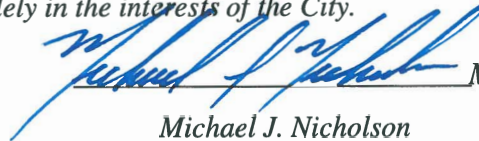
Worcester County GARDNER, MA

City of Gardner

## CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

I appoint **Rick Germano** to the position of **Local Inspector**, and I certify

that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.

 Mayor  
Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk

Expires: January 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named **Rick Germano** and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **Local Inspector** according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

January 4, 2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

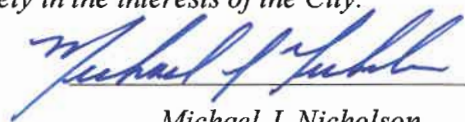
2024 JAN 11 AM 8:40

Worcester County  
GARDNER, MA

City of Gardner

## CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

I appoint **James E. Imprescia** to the position of **Plumbing & Gas Inspector**, and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.

 Mayor  
Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Titi Siriphan

Expires: January 4, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named **James E. Imprescia** and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **Plumbing and Gas Inspector** according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
and  
Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_



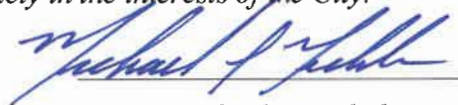
RECEIVED

January 8, 2024

2024 JAN 11 AM 9:47

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**Worcester County  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA**City of Gardner****CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT**

I appoint **Timothy Horrigan** to the position of **Member, Redevelopment Authority**, and I certify that in my opinion he/she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interests of the City.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
 Michael J. Nicholson

Confirmed by City Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Titi Siriphan  
 City Clerk

Expires: January 8, 2027

Worcester, ss., \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above named **Timothy Horrigan** and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **Member, Redevelopment Authority** according to law and the best of his/her abilities.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City Clerk

Chapter 303 Acts of 1975  
 and  
 Chapter 409 Acts of 1983

Received \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINACNE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER CHAPTER 600, ENTITLED  
“VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”, SECTION 24, ENTITLED “PARKING PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Section 24, of Chapter 600 of the Code of the City of Garnder, entitled “Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets” by amended by adding the following

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Comee St	West	Entire Length
Comee St	East	From Pearl Street southerly for a distance of 30 feet



# CITY OF GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 Main Street • Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

**Emergency-Dial 911**

Main line: (978) 632-5600

Fax Line: (978) 630-4027



## **TRAFFIC COMMISSION - MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Thursday August 10, 2023 Time: 10am

Location: Community Classroom, GPD

Provided by Dept. Chief of Police Nick Maroni

1. Members in attendance: Call to Order: 10:03 am by D.C. Nicholas Maroni  
Dane Arnold – Director of DPW  
Rob Oliva – City Engineer  
Josh Cormier – Director of Civil Enforcement  
Craig Cormier – Councilor at large  
  
Member(s) not in attendance- Trevor Beauregard
2. Waive reading / acceptance of meeting minutes from April 24, 2023
  - a. Motion by Dane, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob, All in favor – Unanimous.
3. Rob- updated on flashing school zone signs on Catherine St
  - a. Future updates to city ordinance to define current school zones.
4. Gardner ale house renting a parking spot on Parker St to designate as Pick up parking.
  - a. Josh- if allowed would this cause other businesses to ask too.
  - b. Dane-not in favor, large parking area behind business and across the street
  - c. Nick- limited parking already in the downtown area
  - d. Dane motion to not allow pick up parking for all of downtown, Rob 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimous vote.
5. Pedestrian traffic concerns with new Tap House going in at Bullnose Park.
  - a. Rob- ask Tap house to help enhance crosswalks in area, flashing lights, push button to activate when pedestrians cross. Recommends city work with building owner to install flashing lights
6. New School Traffic and speeding on Catherine St.
  - a. Dane worked with school on new traffic pattern for drop off and pick up that should cut down on traffic. Tabled until start of school to see how it works.
7. Eliminate Parking Spot on Central St near the cross walk at Lake St on the Southwest travel side of Central St so pedestrians can be seen by motor vehicles.
  - a. Dane motioned, Josh 2<sup>nd</sup> All in Favor-Unanimous
  - b. Forwarded to Public Safety Committee
8. Remove handicap spot in front of 144 Central St and recommend city council to approve new Handicap spots on Central St at Monument Park.
  - a. Dane motioned, Josh 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, unanimous.
  - b. Forwarded to Public Safety Committee
  - c. Let property owner know about removing Handicap spot in front of 144 Central.

9. Eliminate parking spot in front of crosswalk on west bound side of East Broadway at Prospect St so motor vehicles can see pedestrians in the cross walk.
  - a. Dane motioned, Rob 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor, unanimous.
  - b. Forwarded to Public Safety Committee.
10. New Business
  - a. Rob suggested making whole length of westside of Comee St no parking and making no parking 30 ft from stop sign on east side heading from Pearl St
    - i. Dane motioned, Josh 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor, unanimous will be forwarded to public safety committee.
  - b. Speeding on Elm St & Lawrence St, request more enforcement with school starting.
  - c. Craig asked about speeding issues on Chesley St
    - i. Nick stated Officers did enforcement in that area and we have not received any further complaints.

Conclusion: At 10:56 am Dane made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Craig

All in favor - Unanimous

Next Traffic Committee Meeting Schedule: TBD

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER CHAPTER 600, ENTITLED  
“VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”, SECTION 24, ENTITLED “PARKING PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Section 24, of Chapter 600 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled “Parking  
Prohibited on Certain Streets” be amended by adding the following

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Douglas Rd	South	From Coleman Street westerly for a distance of 30 feet



CITY OF GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
200 Main Street  
Gardner, MA 01440  
Phone (978) 632-5600  
Fax (978) 630-9045



Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police

Nicholas P. Maroni  
Deputy Chief of Police

Date: 12/5/2023

To Councilor Cormier, Committee Chairman, and members of the Public Safety Committee,

The Traffic Committee met on November 28, 2023 and discussed a few changes and recommendations to increase the safety of the City's roadways. The following are the changes and recommendations the Traffic Committee voted on, unanimously (6 of 6) to send to the Public Safety Committee for review.

1. City Ordinance change to §600-24 (Parking prohibited on certain Streets) due to parking spots being eliminated by new construction around Monument Park.

<b>Name of Street</b>	<b>Side</b>	<b>Location</b>
Park Street	South	From Cottage Street to Central St

2. Temporary 60 Day restricted parking trial on the North side of Edgell St to Westford St.
3. Recommended eliminating parking 30 ft southerly side of Douglas Rd.

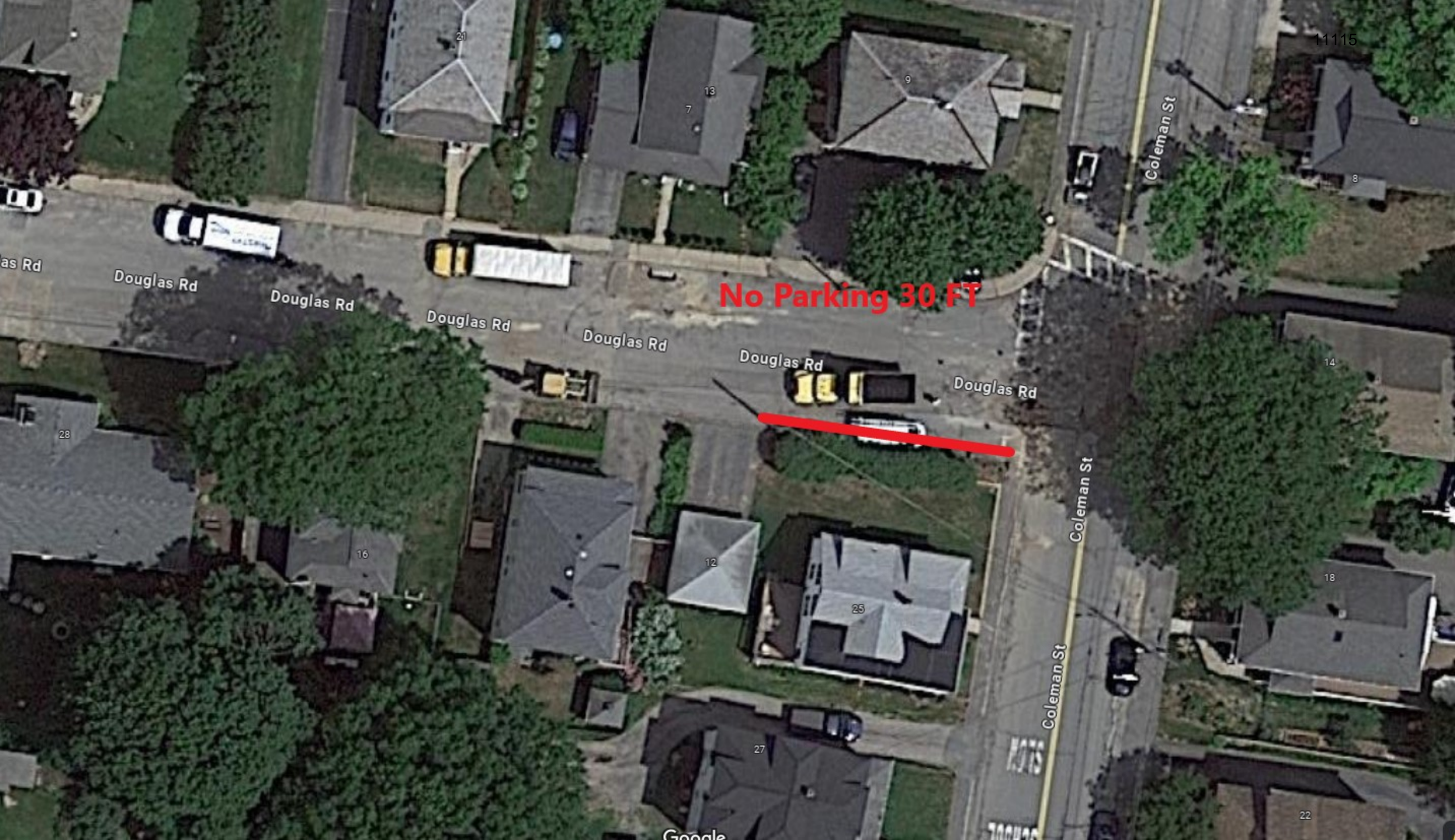
The commission appreciates your attention to these matters and members can be made available if further clarification is needed. Photos of the proposed areas have been attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas Maroni  
Deputy Chief of Police/ Traffic Committee Commissioner

CC: Traffic Commission members, City Clerk





No Parking 30 FT

as Rd

Douglas Rd

Douglas Rd

Douglas Rd

Douglas Rd

Douglas Rd

Douglas Rd

Coleman St

Coleman St

Google





11115

Cherry St

Westford St

No parking

Comee St

Edgell St

Edgell St

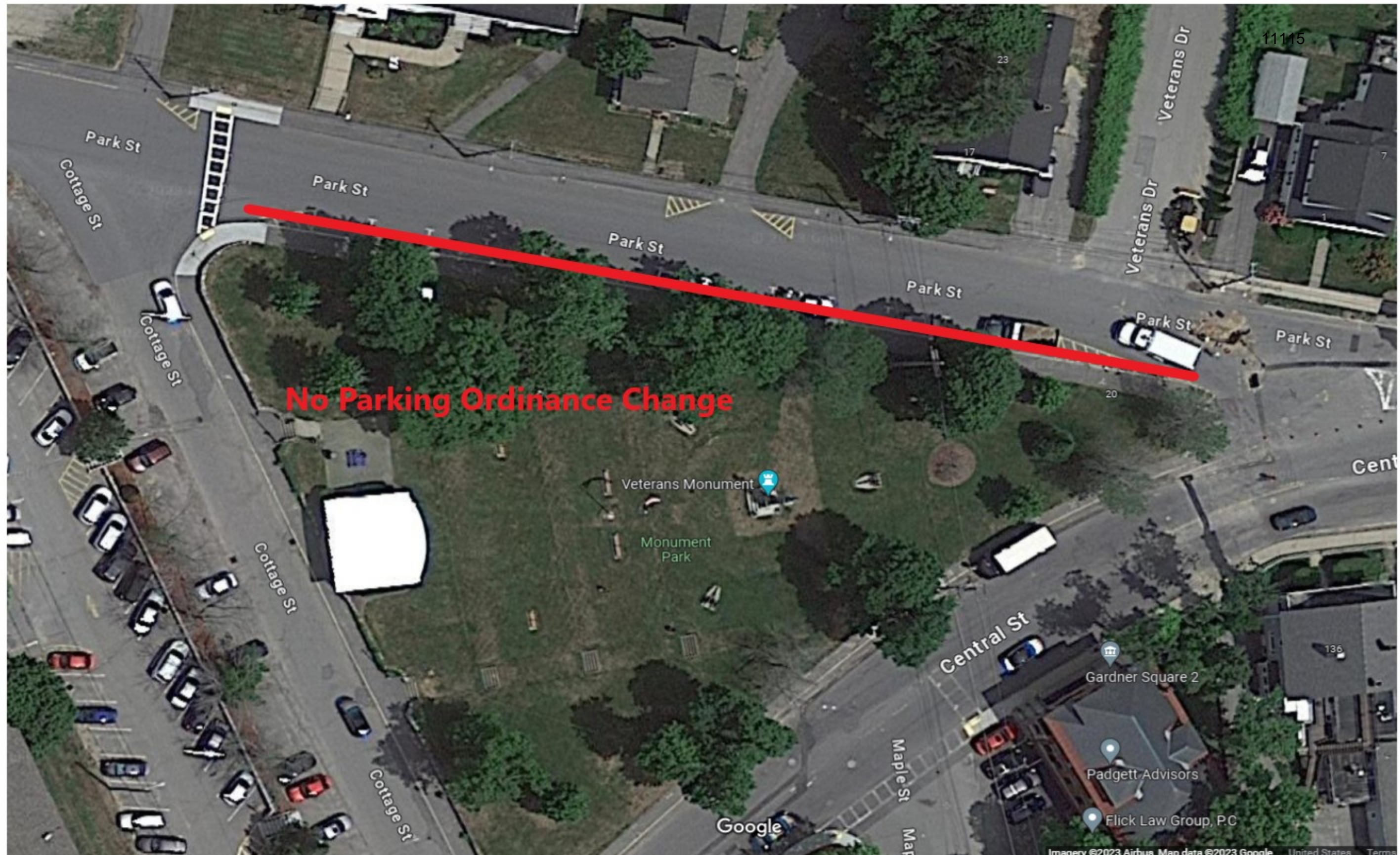
Edgell St

Edgell St

Edgell St

Lawrence St





**No Parking Ordinance Change**

Veterans Monument

Monument Park

Central St

Gardner Square 2

Padgett Advisors

Flick Law Group, P.C.

Google



# CITY OF GARDNER

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Manca Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 201 Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

Phone: (978) 630-4014 ♦ Fax: (978) 632-1905 ♦ CDBG (978) 632-3800



February 23, 2024

President Elizabeth J. Kazinskas  
c/o Titi Sirphan, City Clerk  
City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

RECEIVED  
2024 FEB 23 AM 8:50  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

Re: Proposed Amendment to Zoning Change Classification for

Dear President Kazinskas:

**Subject: Zoning Amendment – Sports Betting / Final Recommendation**

Following the City Council/Planning Board Joint Public Hearing held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, on the above referenced item, the Planning Board held a meeting on February 20, 2024, and voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the subject zoning amendment by the City Council. As part of this vote the Planning Board further recommends the City Council approve this amendment consistent with the Building Commissioner's suggestions in his letter to the City Council and Planning Board dated January 14, 2024, and attached hereto.

Please feel free to contact Trevor M. Beauregard, Director of Community Development and Planning if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron  
Chairman

Cc: Mayor  
Planning Board  
City Council  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Thomas Zuppa, Building Commissioner



**City of Gardner**  
**Department of Inspectional Services**  
 115 Pleasant Street, Room 101  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 Tel. (978) 630-4007 Fax: (978) 632-3313



RECEIVED  
 2024 FEB 23 AM 8:51  
 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
 GARDNER, MA

January 14, 2024

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

Mr. Mark Schafron, Chair and Planning  
 Board Members  
 Gardner City Hall, Manca Annex, Rm. 201  
 115 Pleasant St.  
 Gardner, MA 01440

**RE:** Joint Public Hearing- Item # 10892: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675, thereof entitled "Zoning", to add "Sports Betting" to the Zoning Table of Uses.

Joint Public Hearing- Item #10893: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning", to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, "Marijuana Establishments" to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner.

Dear Madam President and Councilors, Mr. Chairman and Board Members,

I am writing to provide my insight into and recommendations regarding the above-referenced ordinance amendments. If approved, the current recommended proposal regarding petition #10892 is listed below.

The changing of the use of #54 from "permitted by right" (P) to "Special Permit Planning Board" (SPPB) in the Commercial 1 (Com1) and Commercial 2 (Com2) districts and the rewording of #54 in the table of uses of the city of Gardner Zoning Ordinance to read:

*Indoor amusement, fitness, recreational place, place of assembly, or a sports betting facility, provided that the building is so insulated and maintained as to confine noise to the premises and is located not less than 100 feet from a residential district.*

By making the change as it is written, the city of Gardner will impede historic levels of growth and negatively impact a lengthy list of indoor amusement, fitness, or recreational types of businesses that, under the current zoning ordinance, may open and operate "by right" in the Commercial 1 (Com1) and Commercial 2 (Com2) zoning districts.

**Mission Statement**

To promote the safe and compatible development of the community through fair and consistent enforcement of building codes and zoning ordinances

Therefore, the best and most effective way to move Gardner forward is to leave both #54, and #56 in the table of uses unchanged. If the changes are so approved, my recommendation is as follows.

- Section 210(B) of Chapter 675, entitled "Word Usage and Definitions", be amended by adding the following definition to the list:

*Sports Betting Facility – An entity licensed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission under the provisions of Chapter 173 of the Acts of 2022 of the General Laws to conduct sporting and wagering events.*

- A new line item be added to the table of uses bearing the name "Sports Betting Facility"

As the chairman previously stated, the scope of opening a sports betting facility is significant and potentially complex in nature. Due to its complexity, it is my recommendation that a sports betting facility be permitted by "Special Permit from the Planning Board" (SPPB) in the Commercial 1 (Com1) and Commercial 2 (Com2) zoning districts only.

Regarding petition #10893, I have no objections or concerns currently.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Zuppa, CBO  
Building Commissioner  
Zoning Enforcement Officer  
City of Gardner Building Department  
Phone: 978-630-4060  
Email: tzuppa@gardner-ma.gov  
115 Pleasant St. Rm. 101 Gardner, MA 01440

C: Mayor Michael J. Nicholson  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director



AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 675 THEREOF, ENTITLED “ZONING,” TO ADD VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO SPORTS BETTING.

Section 1. Chapter 675-210(B) entitled “Word Usage and Definitions”, be amended by adding the following definition to the list:

*Sports Betting Facility – An entity licensed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission under the provisions of Chapter 173 of the Acts of 2022 of the General Laws to conduct sporting and wagering events.*

Section 2. Chapter 675- Attachment 1, Table of Uses, is hereby amended by adding a new line item bearing the name “Sports Betting Facility” to be permitted by “Special Permit from the Planning Board” (SPPB) in the Commercial 1 (Com1) and Commercial 2 (Com2) zoning districts.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication as required by law. Any claims of invalidity by reason of any defect in the procedure of adoption may only be made ninety days after the posting or the second publication.



**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
 95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 \*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
 NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024** at **6:45 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

- 11112** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses. *(Submitted by Councillor Dana Heath; In the City Council, Referred to Planning Board 12/4/2023, More Time 12/18/2023)*
- 11113** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to Change the Method to Increase the Quota Allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner. *(Submitted by Councillor Dana Heath; In the City Council, Referred to Planning Board 12/4/2023; More Time 12/18/2023)*

Information regarding this amendment is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP), or on the City’s webpage – [www.gardner-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov).

All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
 City Clerk

# CITY OF GARDNER

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Manca Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 201 Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

Phone: (978) 630-4014 ♦ Fax: (978) 632-1905 ♦ CDBG (978) 632-3800

11112



December 14, 2023

President Elizabeth J. Kazinskas  
c/o Titi Sirphan, City Clerk  
City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

RECEIVED  
2023 DEC 14 PM 3:57  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

Subject: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning," to Add "Sports Betting" to the Zoning Table of Uses. (Submitted by Councilor Dana Heath)

Dear President Kazinskas:

At the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, the Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend the City Council approve and adopt the requested Zoning Amendment as referenced above. In addition, the Planning Board recommends to amend the Table of Uses by replacing Permitted by right (P) with Special Permit Planning Board (SPPB) in each of the relevant columns. The Planning Board also voted to hold Joint Public Hearing with the City Council.

Please do not hesitate to contact Trevor M. Beauregard, Director of Community Development and Planning if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron  
Chairman

Cc: Mayor  
Planning Board  
City Council  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Thomas Zuppa, Building Commissioner

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 675 THEREOF, ENTITLED "ZONING," TO ADD "SPORTS BETTING" TO THE ZONING TABLE OF USES.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1:** That Section 210(B) of Chapter 675, entitled "Word Usage and Definitions," be amended by adding the following definition to its list:

Sports Betting Facility – An entity licensed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission under the provisions of Chapter 173 of the Acts of 2022 of the General Laws to conduct sporting and wagering events.

**SECTION 2:** That Section 54 of Attachment 1 of Chapter 675 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled "Zoning- Table of Uses," be adding the term "Sports Betting Facility" to the description of use as follows:

54. Indoor amusement, fitness, or recreational place or place of assembly, provided that the building is so insulated and maintained as to confine noise to the premises and is located not less than 100 feet from a residential district, or a sports betting facility.

**SECTION 2:** That Section 56 of Attachment 1 of Chapter 675 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled "Zoning- Table of Uses," be adding the term "Sports Betting Facility" to the description of use as follows:

56. Public or commercial outdoor amusement or recreation use, or a sports betting facility, but not including outdoor drive-in movie theater.

**SECTION 3:** This this ordinance take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

# CITY OF GARDNER

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
March 30, 2023



Elizabeth Kazinskas, Council President  
C/o Titi Sirphan, City Clerk  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: **Petition 10892** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses.

Dear President Kazinskas:

At its meeting on March 22, 2023, the Planning Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to recommend approving the proposed zoning amendment referenced above based on the information provided to them by the petitioner.

If the proposed amendment is approved, the Planning Board recommends the rewording of number 54 to read:

*Indoor amusement, fitness, recreational place, place of assembly, or a sports betting facility, provided that the building is so insulated and maintained as to confine noise to the premises and is located not less than 100 feet from a residential district.*

In addition, due to the potential significant scope and complexity of such a project if implemented under this proposed zoning amendment, the Board recommends changing the use table for number 54 from permitted by right (P) to Special Permit Planning Board (SPPB) for Commercial 1 and Commercial 2 zones; and number 56 from permitted by right (P) to Special Permit Planning Board (SPPB) for Commercial 2 and Industrial 1 zones.

The Planning Board looks forward to joining the City Council at the joint public hearing scheduled on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Trevor Beauregard if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron, Planning Board Chairman

C: Mayor Michael J. Nicholson  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Richard Hanks, Interim Building Commissioner

City Hall Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 201, Gardner, Massachusetts 01440  
Telephone: (978) 630-4011 ♦ Facsimile: (978) 632-1905 ♦ CDBG (978) 632-3800



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

RECEIVED  
2023 MAR 29 PM 1:21  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 29, 2023

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

RE: Item #: 10892 - Planning Board Follow Up

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

At the Planning Board Meeting of March 22, 2023, the Planning Board recommended changing the proposal from a permitted use ("P") in the table to a use requiring a special permit ("SP").

The Administration is more than acceptable to this proposal and would be amenable to it being made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner





# City of Gardner - Executive Department

Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

RECEIVED

2023 MAR 29 PM 1:21

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 15, 2023

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

Mr. Mark Schafron, Chair  
And Planning Board Members  
Gardner City Hall, Manca Annex, Rm 201  
115 Pleasant St  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: Joint Public Hearing Written Testimony – Item #10892: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675, thereof entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

I am writing in favor of the Administration’s proposed Zoning Amendment to add the term “Sports Betting,” to line items 54 and 56 the Zoning Table of Uses.

In May of 2018, the United States Supreme Court struck down the federal Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (“PASPA”)<sup>1</sup>, also known as the Bradley Act, as unconstitutional in their ruling of *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*<sup>2</sup>. This federal statute had effectively outlawed sports betting nationwide, except for a few excluded states. The Supreme Court had ruled this act as unconstitutional, thus paving the way for several states to legalize sports betting.

In August of 2023, former Governor Charlie Baker signed House Bill 5164 into law, legalizing online, retail, and kiosk sports betting in the Commonwealth for residents ages 21 and older. Retail sports betting went live on January 31, 2023, and online sports betting launched on March 10, 2023. Kiosk sports betting will go live later this year.

There are currently three (3) approved retail sites and ten (10) approved mobile betting applications. When kiosk sports betting goes live later this year, they will be allowed across the Commonwealth in locations that follow a specific procedure as outlined by the new law.

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled on several occasions, that under the First Amendment of the Constitution, a municipality cannot outright ban a particular industry or business from opening within its borders, but can limit where these businesses are located.

Since the City cannot bar this type of business from opening in Gardner, and since this type of activity is not currently listed in the City’s Zoning Table of Uses, it leaves the City open to

<sup>1</sup> 28 U.S.C. ch.178 §3701 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> *Murphy v. NCAA*, 138 S.Ct. 1461 (2018).

liability of not being able to control whether these types of facility are located in largely residential neighborhoods or in areas in the City that may not be suited for this type of activity.

As such, it is the request of my Administration that this use be added to the City Code's Zoning table of uses under Line 54: Indoor Amusement, and Line 56: Outdoor Amusement, as these items fit the closest to the realm of sports betting.

This amendment to the Zoning Table of Uses, does not waive the other requirements these locations would have to go through should any sports betting facility open in Gardner in the future.

Per the requirements of the sports betting enabling legislation, any sports betting facility would have to enter into a Host Community Agreement ("HCA") similar to cannabis facilities in the Commonwealth. The Expanded Gaming Act requires that all applicants for sports betting licenses must first submit to the Massachusetts Gaming commission:

"a signed agreement between the host community and the applicant setting forth the conditions to have a gaming establishment located within the host community; provided, however, that the agreement shall include a community impact fee for the host community and all stipulations of responsibilities between the host community and the applicant, including stipulations of known impacts from the development and operation of a gaming establishment."

Additionally, after the HCA is approved by the City Council and signed by the Mayor, the City Council must then annually vote to allow the proposed establishment to operate a sports betting facility within the City at its location.

Lastly, before any facility should open, they must also go through the regular requirements for site plan approval and Development Review Committee vetting, both listed in Chapter §675-1010 of the City Code.

As such, this action to add this type of use to the Zoning Ordinances still requires this type of industry to be heavily regulated and vetted by the City by both branches of its government and its boards and commissions.

This action is simply being put forward to protect the City in the long run and pre-plan should one of these facilities come to Gardner rather than waiting and reacting if this should ever come up.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner



**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440  
\*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING, continued

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

- **10891** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 Thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Change the Classification of Certain Parcels of Land Along Route 140.
- **10892** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses.
- **10893** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner

Information regarding this amendment is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP), or on the City’s webpage – [www.gardner-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov).

All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk



**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440  
\*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

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All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk



City of Gardner - *Executive Department*

Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

February 3, 2023

Hon. Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, Council President

And City Councilors

Gardner City Hall, Rm 121

95 Pleasant St

Gardner, MA 01440

RE: Zoning Ordinance Proposal- Sports Betting Facilities

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

As you are likely aware, on August 10, 2022, former Governor Charlie Baker signed Chapter 173 of the Acts of 2022 into law, legalizing sports betting in the Commonwealth.

This new addition to the General Laws, some parts of which have already taken effect while others will within the next few months, allows for the opening of new facilities across the Commonwealth where individuals can gamble and place wagers on sporting games.

Currently, these types of facilities are not governed by our zoning ordinance, as they were not allowed prior to the passage of this act. The attached ordinance proposal is being presented to help protect the City so that we can regulate where facilities like this can go and make sure that in the event that a facility like this looks to open in Gardner, it locates in a location that fits this use rather than in a largely residential area that could cause disruptions to a neighborhood.

I believe it is in the best interest of the City to be proactive in this matter in order to make sure the City has the tools in place before any situations may arise.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael J. Nicholson", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

CC:

City Council Public Welfare Committee  
Planning Board



## CITY OF GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 Main Street  
Gardner, Massachusetts 01440  
Phone: (978) 632-5600  
Fax: (978) 632-9045



Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police

Nicholas P. Maroni  
Deputy Chief of Police

February 3, 2023

The Honorable Michael J. Nicholson, Mayor  
Gardner City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street  
Gardner, MA 01440

Re: Sports Betting Zoning Ordinance

Dear Mayor,

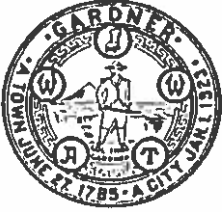
I have reviewed the proposed addition of the new Sports Betting Ordinance and do not see any issues from the police department. Any proposed facility should have a buffer between any residential zone and this ordinance reflects the new law.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CP McAvene".

Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police



**City of Gardner**  
**Department of Inspectional Services**  
**115 Pleasant Street, Room 101**  
**Gardner, MA 01440**  
Tel. (978) 630-4007 Fax: (978) 632-3313

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Feb. 7, 2023

RE: Text Amendment

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please accept this letter as my full support for your proposed text amendment to our Zoning Ordinance regarding sports betting. I believe when new laws are enacted at a state level that a municipalities Zoning must change to reflect the new law, or be forced to react to a potential problem.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further assistance.

Roland Jean  
Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer  
City Hall Annex  
115 Pleasant St. RM 101  
Gardner, MA 01440  
(978) 630 4007  
rjean@gardner-ma.gov

**Mission Statement**

To promote the safe and compatible development of the community through fair and consistent enforcement of building codes and zoning ordinances



*Current Ordinance*

GARDNER CODE

Description of Use	SFR1	RR2	GR3	COM1	COM2		IND1	IND2
					P	SP		
49. Restaurant	NP	SP	NP	P	P		P	NP
50. Restaurant, fast-food, including appurtenant structures to provide drive-through or drive-in services	NP	NP	NP	SP	SP		NP	NP
51. Restaurant serving food or beverages with live or mechanical entertainment	NP	SP	NP	SP	P		NP	NP
52. Wholesale office or showroom, with storage limited to floor samples only	NP	NP	NP	P	P		P	P
53. Wholesale office or showroom with storage permitted on property	NP	NP	NP	SP	P		P	P
54. Indoor amusement, fitness, or recreational place or place of assembly, provided that the building is so insulated and maintained as to confine noise to the premises and is located not less than 100 feet from a residential district	NP	NP	NP	P	P		NP	NP
55. Outdoor commercial clubs and/or recreational establishments or use such as swimming pools, tennis courts, ski clubs, camping areas, skating rinks or other commercial facilities offering outdoor recreation	NP	SP	NP	P	P		NP	NP
56. Public or commercial outdoor amusement or recreation use but not including outdoor drive-in movie theater	NP	NP	NP	NP	P		P	NP
57. Bus station or terminal or railroad station for passengers	NP	NP	NP	P	P		P	NP
58. Transport terminal, warehouse distribution facility	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP		P	P
59. Contracting business and contractor's yard, including storage in the open'	NP	NP	NP	NP	SP		P	NP

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 5164

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches with reference to the Senate amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2862) of the House Bill regulating sports wagering (House, No. 3993), reports recommending passage of the accompanying bill (House, No. 5164). August 1, 2022.

Jerald A. Parisella	Michael J. Rodrigues
Aaron Michlewitz	Eric P. Lesser
David K. Muradian	Patrick M. O'Connor

FILED ON: 8/1/2022

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 5164****The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)

An Act regulating sports wagering.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out clause Tenth, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following clause:-

Tenth, "Illegal gaming", a banking or percentage game played with cards, dice, tiles, dominoes, or an electronic, electrical or mechanical device or machine for money, property, checks, credit or any representative of value, but excluding: (i) a lottery game conducted by the state lottery commission under sections 24, 24A and 27 of chapter 10; (ii) a game conducted under chapter 23K; (iii) sports wagering conducted under chapter 23N; (iv) pari-mutuel wagering on horse races under chapters 128A and 128C and greyhound races under said chapter 128C; (v) a game of bingo conducted under chapter 271; (vi) charitable gaming conducted under said chapter 271; and (vii) a fantasy contest conducted under section 11M½.

SECTION 2. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out clause Tenth, as inserted by section 1, and inserting in place thereof the following clause:-

Tenth, "Illegal gaming", a banking or percentage game played with cards, dice, tiles, dominoes, or an electronic, electrical or mechanical device or machine for money, property, checks, credit or any representative of value, but excluding: (i) a lottery game conducted by the state lottery commission under sections 24, 24A and 27 of chapter 10; (ii) a game conducted under chapter 23K; (iii) sports wagering conducted under chapter 23N; (iv) pari-mutuel wagering on horse races under chapters 128A and 128C; (v) a game of bingo conducted under chapter 271; and (vi) charitable gaming conducted under said chapter 271.

SECTION 3. Chapter 12 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 11M the following section:-

Section 11M½. Notwithstanding sections 24, 24A and 27 of chapter 10, chapter 271 or any other general or special law to the contrary, a person or entity that offers fantasy contests for a cash prize to members of the public may offer a fantasy contest to residents of the commonwealth pursuant to and in accordance with regulations promulgated by the attorney general; provided further, for the purposes of section 7 of chapter 4, a fantasy contest shall not be considered illegal gaming. "Fantasy contest" includes any fantasy or simulated game or contest, including, but not limited to, any fantasy or simulated game or contest based on professional sports events in which: (i) the value of all prizes and awards offered to winning participants are established and made known to the participants in advance of the contest; (ii) all winning outcomes reflect the relative knowledge and skill of the participants and shall be determined predominantly by accumulated statistical results of the performance of individuals, including athletes in the case of sports events; and (iii) no winning outcome is based on the score, point spread, or any performance or performances of any single actual team or combination of such

36 teams or solely on any single performance of an individual athlete or player in any single actual  
37 event.

38 SECTION 4. Section 4 of chapter 23K of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
39 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following subsection:-

40 (42) regulate and enforce chapter 23N relating to sports wagering.

41 SECTION 5. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 23M the  
42 following chapter:-

43 CHAPTER 23N

44 AUTHORIZATION AND REGULATION OF SPORTS WAGERING

45 Section 1. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Massachusetts Sports  
46 Wagering Act".

47 Section 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the operation of  
48 sports wagering and ancillary activities shall be lawful when conducted in accordance with this  
49 chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission.

50 Section 3. As used in this chapter the following words shall, unless the context clearly  
51 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

52 "Adjusted gross fantasy wagering receipts", the total gross receipts from fantasy contests  
53 as defined in section 11M1/2 of chapter 12, less only the total of all cash prizes paid to  
54 participants in the fantasy contests; provided, however, that the total of all cash prizes paid to

55 participants shall not include the cash equivalent of any merchandise or thing of value awarded  
56 as a prize.

57 “Adjusted gross sports wagering receipts”, the total gross receipts from sports wagering  
58 less the sum of: (i) the total of all winnings paid to participants; and (ii) all excise taxes paid  
59 pursuant to federal law; provided, however, that the total of all winnings paid to participants  
60 shall not include the cash equivalent of any merchandise or thing of value awarded as a prize.

61 “Affiliate”, a person who directly or indirectly controls, or is controlled by, or is under  
62 common control with, a specified person.

63 “Applicant”, a person who has applied for a license to engage in activity regulated under  
64 this chapter.

65 “Breaks”, the odd cents over any multiple of 10 cents of winnings per \$1 wagered.

66 “Category 1 license”, a license issued by the commission that permits the operation of  
67 sports wagering in person at a gaming establishment, as defined in section 2 of chapter 23K, and  
68 through not more than 2 individually-branded mobile applications or other digital platforms  
69 approved by the commission; provided, that the mobile applications or other digital platforms  
70 shall be qualified for and issued a category 3 license.

71 “Category 2 license”, a license issued by the commission that permits the operation of  
72 sports wagering in-person on the premises where either: (1) live horse racing is conducted in  
73 accordance with chapter 128A or (2) the licensee is authorized by law to conduct simulcast  
74 wagering on horse or greyhound racing, and through not more than 1 individually branded  
75 mobile application or other digital platform approved by the commission; provided, that the

76 mobile applications or other digital platforms shall be qualified for and issued a category 3  
77 license; provided further, that the commission may issue a category 2 license to: (1) a person or  
78 entity licensed by the commission in accordance with said chapter 128A to conduct a live horse  
79 racing meeting, (2) a running horse racing licensee that conducted simulcast wagering as of  
80 December 31, 2020 as authorized by law, or (3) a greyhound meeting licensee that conducted  
81 simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020 as authorized by law; provided further, a category 2  
82 licensee shall make a capital investment of not less than \$7,500,000 within 3 years after  
83 receiving a sports wagering license.

84 “Category 3 license”, a license issued by the commission that permits the operation of  
85 sports wagering through a mobile application and other digital platforms approved by the  
86 commission.

87 “Close associate”, a person who holds a relevant financial interest in, or is entitled to  
88 exercise power in, the business of an applicant or licensee and, by virtue of that interest or  
89 power, is able to exercise a significant influence over the management or operation of a gaming  
90 establishment or business licensed under this chapter.

91 “Collegiate sport or athletic event”, a sport or athletic event offered or sponsored by, or  
92 played in connection with, a public or private institution that offers educational services beyond  
93 the secondary level.

94 “Collegiate tournament”, a series of collegiate sports or athletic events involving four or  
95 more collegiate teams that make up a single unit of competition.

96 “Commission”, the Massachusetts gaming commission established in section 3 of chapter  
97 23K.



98           “Electronic sports”, a single or multiplayer video game played competitively for  
99 spectators.

100           “Governmental authority”, any governmental unit of a national, state or local body  
101 exercising governmental functions, except the United States government.

102           “License”, any license applied for or issued by the commission under this chapter,  
103 including, but not limited to: (i) an operator license or (ii) an occupational license.

104           “National criminal history background check”, a criminal history background check  
105 conducted using the criminal history record system maintained by the Federal Bureau of  
106 Investigation and based on fingerprint identification or any other method of positive  
107 identification.

108           “Occupational license”, a license required to be held by an employee of an operator when  
109 the employee performs duties directly related to the operation of sports wagering in the  
110 commonwealth in a supervisory role.

111           “Official league data”, statistics, results, outcomes and other data relating to a sporting  
112 event that is obtained pursuant to an agreement with the relevant sports governing body, or with  
113 an entity expressly authorized by the relevant sports governing body to provide such data to  
114 sports wagering operators, which authorizes the use of such data for determining the outcome of  
115 tier 2 sports wagers on such sporting event.

116           “Operator” or “sports wagering operator”, any entity permitted under this chapter to offer  
117 sports wagering to persons in the commonwealth through a category 1 license, category 2 license  
118 or category 3 license.

119           “Operator license”, a category 1 license, category 2 license or category 3 license to  
120   operate sports wagering.

121           “Person”, an individual, corporation, association, operation, firm, partnership, trust or  
122   other form of business association.

123           “Personal biometric data”, any information about an athlete that is derived from that  
124   athlete’s physical or physiological characteristics, including, but not limited to, deoxyribonucleic  
125   acid, heart rate, blood pressure, perspiration rate, internal or external body temperature, hormone  
126   levels, glucose levels, hydration levels, vitamin levels, bone density, muscle density or sleep  
127   patterns.

128           “Players association”, a professional sports association recognized by a sports governing  
129   body that represents professional athletes.

130           “Professional sport or athletic event”, an event at which 2 or more persons participate in a  
131   sport or athletic event and receive compensation in excess of actual expenses for their  
132   participation in such event.

133           “Promotional gaming credit”, a sports wagering credit or other item issued by an operator  
134   to a patron to enable the placement of a sports wager.

135           “Qualified gaming entity”, an entity that: (i) holds a gaming license as defined in section  
136   2 of chapter 23K; (ii) (a) is licensed by the commission in accordance with chapter 128A to  
137   conduct a live horse racing meeting, (b) is a running horse racing licensee that conducted  
138   simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020 as authorized by law or (c) is a greyhound meeting  
139   licensee that conducted simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020 as authorized by law; or

(iii) offers an interactive sports wagering platform through a mobile application or other digital platform.

“Sports event” or “sporting event”, a professional sport or athletic event, collegiate sport or athletic event, a collegiate tournament, motor race event, electronic sports event or other event authorized by the commission under this chapter; provided, however, that “sporting event” shall not include: (i) high school and youth sports or athletic events; or (ii) a collegiate sport or athletic event involving 1 or more collegiate teams from the commonwealth unless they are involved in a collegiate tournament.

“Sports governing body”, an organization that is headquartered in the United States and prescribes final rules and enforces codes of conduct with respect to a sporting event and participants therein; provided, however, that, notwithstanding the foregoing, the commission shall adopt regulations to determine the governing body for electronic sports for the purposes of this chapter.

“Sports wager”, a wager on a sporting event or a portion of a sporting event.

“Sports wagering”, the business of accepting wagers on sporting events or portions of sporting events, other events, the individual performance statistics of athletes in a sporting event or other events or a combination of any of the same by any system or method of wagering approved by the commission including, but not limited to, mobile applications and other digital platforms; provided, that sports wagering shall not include the acceptance of any wager: (i) with an outcome dependent on the performance of an individual athlete in any collegiate sport or athletic event, including, but not limited, to in-game or in-play wagers; (ii) on a high school or youth sporting event; (iii) on injuries, penalties, player discipline or replay review; and provided

further, that sports wagering shall not include fantasy contests as defined in section 11M½ of chapter 12. Sports wagering shall include, but shall not be limited to, single-game bets, teaser bets, parlays, over-under, moneyline, pools, exchange wagering, in-game wagering, in-play bets, proposition bets and straight bets.

“Sports wagering account”, a financial record established by an operator for a patron in which the patron may deposit by any method approved by the commission and withdraw funds for sports wagering and other authorized purchases and to which the operator may credit winnings or other amounts due to or authorized by that patron; provided, however, that such account may be established and funded by the patron electronically through an approved mobile application or digital platform; and provided further, that a deposit into a sports wagering account shall not be made using a credit card.

“Tier 1 sports wager”, a sports wager that is determined solely by the final score or outcome of a sporting event and is placed before the sporting event has begun.

“Tier 2 sports wager”, a sports wager that is not a tier 1 sports wager.

“Wager”, a sum of money or thing of value risked on an uncertain occurrence.

Section 4. (a) The commission shall regulate the conduct of sports wagering under this chapter.

(b) The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation, administration and enforcement of this chapter. The commission may promulgate emergency rules and regulations in accordance with applicable procedures for the promulgation of emergency rules and regulations.

(c) The commission shall promulgate regulations to prohibit: (i) the purchase or other use of any personal biometric data of an athlete for sports wagering or aiding a patron in placing a wager with sports wagering operators; and (ii) the following advertising, marketing and branding activities: (A) advertisements, marketing and branding in such a manner that it is deceptive, false, misleading, or untrue, or tends to deceive or create a misleading impression whether directly, or by ambiguity or omission; (B) use of unsolicited pop-up advertisements on the internet or by text message directed to an individual on the list of self-excluded persons established pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of section 13; (C) any form of advertising, marketing or branding that the commission deems unacceptable or disruptive to the viewer experience at a sports event; (D) advertising, marketing and branding deemed to appeal directly to a person younger than 21 years old; and (E) advertising on any billboards, or any other public signage, which fails to comply with any federal, state or local law.

(d)(1) The commission may promulgate rules and regulations including, but not limited to, those governing the acceptance of wagers on a sports event, other event or a series of sports events; types of wagering receipts which may be used; methods of issuing receipts; methods of accounting to be used by operators; types of records to be kept; types of systems for wagering; and any other sports wagering-related issues.

(2) The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations regarding protections for patrons placing wagers and the promotion of social responsibility and responsible gaming that shall include, but not be limited to, a requirement that an operator: (i) implement responsible gaming programs that include comprehensive employee trainings on responding to circumstances in which individuals present signs of gambling addiction; (ii) assess, prevent and address problem gaming by an operator's consumers; (iii) permit a consumer to permanently



close an account registered to the consumer on any or all platforms owned or operated by the operator at any time and for any reason; (iv) offer consumers access to their account history and account details; (v) refrain from making claims as to a consumer's winnings or money earned that is not net of wagers placed; (vi) allow a consumer to withdraw funds without further solicitation or promotion in the manner in which the funds were deposited; (vii) annually submit a problem gaming plan for approval by the commission, in consultation with the department of public health, that includes the objectives of and timetables for implementing the plan, identification of the persons responsible for implementing and maintaining the plan, procedures for identifying consumers with suspected or known problem gaming behavior, procedures for providing information to consumers concerning problem gaming identification and resources, procedures to prevent gaming by minors and self-excluded persons and any other information the commission may require; and (viii) shall not offer or provide a line of credit to any consumer.

(3) The commission shall promulgate regulations that require mobile applications and digital platforms authorized for sports wagering to prominently display upon each entry into the application or platform the telephone number and website for a problem gambling hotline overseen by the department of public health.

(e) The commission shall: (i) determine the eligibility of a person to hold or continue to hold a license; (ii) issue all licenses; and (iii) maintain a record of all licenses issued under this chapter.

(f) The commission shall levy and collect all fees, surcharges, civil penalties and taxes on adjusted gross sports wagering receipts imposed by this chapter, except as otherwise provided under this chapter.

228 (g) The commission shall have the authority to enforce this chapter and any rule or  
229 regulation of the commission and may request that the attorney general bring an action to enforce  
230 this chapter or any rule or regulation of the commission by civil action or petition for injunctive  
231 relief.

232 (h) The commission may hold hearings, administer oaths and issue subpoenas or  
233 subpoenas duces tecum in order to enforce this chapter and the rules and regulations of the  
234 commission.

235 (i) The commission may exercise any other powers necessary to effectuate this chapter  
236 and the rules and regulations of the commission.

237 Section 5. (a) A person shall not engage in any activity in connection with sports  
238 wagering in the commonwealth unless all required licenses have been obtained in accordance  
239 with this chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission.

240 (b) The commission shall not grant an operator license until it determines that each  
241 person who has control of the applicant meets all qualifications for licensure. For the purposes of  
242 this chapter, the following shall be considered to have control of an applicant: (i) a person who  
243 owns 10 per cent or more of a corporate applicant and who has the ability to control the activities  
244 of the corporate applicant; provided, however, that a bank or other licensed lending institution  
245 that holds a mortgage or other lien acquired in the ordinary course of business shall not be  
246 considered to have control of an applicant; (ii) a person who holds a beneficial or proprietary  
247 interest of 10 per cent or more of a non-corporate applicant's business operation and who has the  
248 ability to control the activities of the non-corporate applicant; and (iii) at the commission's

discretion, an executive, employee or agent having the power to exercise significant influence over decisions concerning the applicant's sports wagering operations in the commonwealth.

(c) A person having control of an applicant pursuant to subsection (b) shall submit to the commission an application in a form determined by the commission. Each such person who is a natural person shall also submit to the commission: (i) fingerprints for a national criminal records check by the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and (ii) a signed authorization for the release of the person's information by the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; provided, however, that a person having control of an applicant who is a natural person that has submitted to a national criminal records check in any jurisdiction within the previous year shall not be required to submit to another national criminal records check if such person submits to the commission the results of such previous national criminal records check. Any applicant convicted of any disqualifying offense, as determined by the commission, shall not be licensed.

(d) Each person licensed under this chapter shall give the commission written notice not more than 30 days after any change to any material information provided in the application for a license or renewal.

(e) A commission employee shall not be an applicant for any license issued under this chapter.

Section 6. (a) A licensed qualified gaming entity may operate sports wagering upon the approval of the commission.

(b)(1) The commission shall issue a category 1 license to any holder of a gaming license, as defined in section 2 of chapter 23K, that meets the requirements of this chapter and the rules

271 and regulations of the commission; provided, however, that any holder of a category 1 license  
272 shall not be issued a category 2 license.

273 (2) The commission shall issue a category 2 license to: (i) any holder of a license to  
274 conduct a live horse racing meeting in accordance with chapter 128A; (ii) a running horse racing  
275 licensee that conducted simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020 as authorized by law; or  
276 (iii) a greyhound meeting licensee that conducted simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020  
277 as authorized by law; that meets the requirements of this chapter and the rules and regulations of  
278 the commission; provided, however, that any holder of a category 2 license shall not be issued a  
279 category 1 license; and provided further, that no more than 1 category 2 license shall be issued to  
280 any 1 person, entity, or affiliate or close associate of such person or entity.

281 (3) The commission may issue a category 3 license to any entity that offers sports  
282 wagering through a mobile application or other digital platform that meets the requirements of  
283 this chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission; provided, however, the commission  
284 shall issue no more than 7 category 3 licenses that are not connected to a category 1 or category  
285 2 license.

286 (4) A category 1 or category 2 licensee may enter into agreements related to mobile or  
287 digital sports wagering with a category 3 licensee pursuant to the approval of the commission.  
288 Nothing in this chapter shall require a category 3 licensee to partner with or have any  
289 commercial relationship with a category 1 or 2 licensee.

290 (c)(1) A qualified gaming entity may submit to the commission a request for a temporary  
291 license for the immediate commencement of sports wagering operations. Such request shall  
292 include an initial licensing fee of \$1,000,000 payable to the commission.

293           (2) Upon receiving a request for a temporary license, the executive director of the  
294 commission shall review the request. If the executive director determines that the entity  
295 requesting the temporary license is a qualified gaming entity and has paid the sports wagering  
296 initial licensing fee pursuant to paragraph (1), the commission shall authorize the qualified  
297 gaming entity to conduct sports wagering for a period of 1 year under a temporary license or  
298 until a final determination on its operator license application is made.

299           (3) All sports wagering conducted under authority of a temporary license shall comply  
300 with the house rules adopted under section 10.

301           (d) Prior to issuing an operator license, the commission shall commence an investigation  
302 into the suitability of the applicant. The commission may use information obtained from the  
303 applicant pursuant to chapter 23K, chapter 128A, chapter 128C, or information from other  
304 jurisdictions where the applicant is authorized to conduct sports wagering. In evaluating the  
305 suitability of the applicant, the commission shall consider the overall reputation of the applicant  
306 including, but not limited to: (i) the integrity, honesty, good character and reputation of the  
307 applicant; (ii) the financial stability, integrity and background of the applicant; (iii) the business  
308 practices and the business ability of the applicant to establish and maintain a successful sports  
309 wagering operation; (iv) whether the applicant has a history of compliance with gaming or sports  
310 wagering licensing requirements in other jurisdictions; (v) whether the applicant, at the time of  
311 application, is a defendant in litigation involving its business practices; and (vi) the suitability of  
312 all parties in interest to the license, including affiliates and close associates, and the financial  
313 resources of the applicant.

314 (c) The commission may deny an application, if the commission determines during its  
315 investigation that an applicant has failed to: (i) establish the applicant's integrity or the integrity  
316 of any affiliate, close associate, financial resources or any person required to be qualified by the  
317 commission; (ii) demonstrate responsible business practices in any jurisdiction; or (iii) overcome  
318 any other reason, as determined by the commission, as to why it would be injurious to the  
319 interests of the commonwealth to award the applicant an operator license.

320 (f) Upon application by a qualified gaming entity that is not denied pursuant to subsection  
321 (e) and payment of a \$5,000,000 licensing fee, the commission shall grant an operator license to  
322 a qualified gaming entity that provides the right to conduct sports wagering; provided, that the  
323 qualified gaming entity shall meet the requirements for licensure under this chapter and the rules  
324 and regulations of the commission. Such license shall be issued for a 5-year period, and may be  
325 renewed for 5-year periods upon payment of a \$5,000,000 renewal fee; provided, that the  
326 operator shall continue to meet all requirements under this chapter and the rules and regulations  
327 of the commission. The commission shall credit any initial licensing fee paid pursuant to  
328 paragraph (1) of subsection (c) to a successful applicant for an operator license against the  
329 licensing fee due under this subsection.

330 (g) An operator shall submit to the commission such documentation or information as the  
331 commission may require to demonstrate that the operator continues to meet the requirements of  
332 this chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission. An operator shall submit required  
333 documentation or information no later than 5 years after issuance of its operator license and  
334 every 5 years thereafter, or within lesser periods based on circumstances specified by the  
335 commission.



(h) No licensee shall transfer an operator license, or any direct or indirect interest in the license, without the majority approval of the commission. A person seeking to acquire such license through a transfer shall qualify and otherwise be determined by the commission to be eligible for licensure under this chapter. The commission may reject a proposed license transfer or a proposed transfer of interest in the license to an unsuitable person and may reject a proposed transfer that, in the determination of the commission, would be injurious to the interests of the commonwealth. The commission may promulgate regulations governing this process which may include assessment of a fee to reflect the cost associated with reviewing the proposed transfer.

(i) Applications for operator licenses shall be public records under section 10 of chapter 66; provided however, that trade secrets, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of an application for an operator license under this chapter, the disclosure of which would place the applicant at a competitive disadvantage, may be withheld from disclosure under said section 10 of said chapter 66.

Section 7. (a) An applicant for an operator license shall pay to the commission a nonrefundable processing fee of \$200,000 for the costs associated with the processing of the application and investigation of the applicant; provided, however, that if the costs of the investigation exceed the initial application fee, the applicant shall pay the additional amount to the commission not more than 30 days after notification of insufficient fees or the application shall be rejected.

(b) All fees in this section shall be deposited into the Sports Wagering Control Fund established in section 14.

357           Section 8. Section 8. (a) All persons employed by an operator to perform duties directly  
358 related to the operation of sports wagering in the commonwealth in a supervisory role shall  
359 maintain a valid occupational license issued by the commission. The commission shall issue such  
360 occupational license to a person who meets the requirements of this section.

361           (b) An occupational license authorizes the licensee to be employed in the capacity  
362 designated by the commission while the license is active. The commission may establish, by rule  
363 or regulation, job classifications with different requirements based on the extent to which a  
364 particular job impacts, or has the potential to impact, the lawful operation of sports wagering.

365           (c) An applicant for an occupational license shall submit any required application forms  
366 established by the commission and shall pay a nonrefundable application fee of \$100. An  
367 employer may pay an application fee on behalf of an applicant.

368           (d) Not later than March 1 of the third calendar year following the issuance or renewal of  
369 an occupational license, an occupational license holder shall pay a nonrefundable license renewal  
370 fee of \$100 and submit a renewal application on a form established by the commission. An  
371 employer may pay the license renewal fee on behalf of the licensed employee.

372           Section 9. Section 9. (a) The commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand  
373 any licensee or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee: (i) has knowingly made a  
374 false statement of a material fact to the commission; (ii) has had a license revoked by any  
375 governmental authority responsible for regulation of gaming activities; (iii) has been convicted  
376 of a felony or other crime involving embezzlement, theft, fraud, perjury, or a gambling-related  
377 offense; (iv) has not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commission financial responsibility  
378 sufficient to adequately meet the requirements of the proposed enterprise; (v) has affiliates or

close associates that would not qualify for a license or whose relationship with the applicant may pose an injurious threat to the interests of the commonwealth in awarding an operator license to the applicant; or (vi) in the case of an operator or an applicant for an operator license, is not the true owner of the business or is not the sole owner and has not disclosed the existence or identity of other persons who have an ownership interest in the business.

(b) The commission may deny, suspend or revoke an operator license or reprimand any licensee if the applicant or licensee has not met the requirements of this chapter.

Section 10. (a) An operator shall adopt comprehensive house rules for game play governing sports wagering transactions with the operator's patrons. The house rules shall specify the amounts to be paid on winning wagers and the effect of sports event schedule changes. An operator shall not conduct sports wagering until the commission has approved the house rules and an operator shall not conduct sports wagering in a manner inconsistent with approved house rules.

(b) The house rules, together with any other information the commission deems appropriate, shall be accessible to any patrons of the sports wagering operator. The operator shall make copies readily available to patrons and shall post the house rules as required by the commission, including on a prominent place on the operator's public website and mobile application or other digital platform.

Section 11. (a) An operator shall employ commercially reasonable methods to: (i) prohibit the operator, directors, officers, owners and employees of the operator and any relative living in the same household as any such person from placing bets with the operator; (ii) prohibit athletes, coaches, referees, team owners, employees of a sports governing body or its member

401 teams and player and referee union personnel from wagering on any sporting event of their  
402 sport's governing body; provided, however, that the operator shall use lists of such persons that a  
403 sports governing body may provide to the commission to determine which persons are excluded  
404 from placing wagers under this subsection; and provided further, that the commission may use  
405 the list of barred employees from the operator and may work directly with a member team to  
406 determine the risk posed by certain employees for obtaining nonpublic confidential information  
407 on a sporting event and may remove an employee without knowledge of team strategy or game  
408 operations from such a list if the commission determines any such risk is de minimis; (iii)  
409 prohibit any individual with access to nonpublic confidential information held by the operator  
410 from placing wagers with the operator; (iv) prohibit persons from placing wagers as agents or  
411 proxies for others; and (v) maintain the security of wagering data, customer data and other  
412 confidential information from unauthorized access and dissemination; provided, however, that  
413 nothing in this chapter shall preclude the use of internet or cloud-based hosting of such data and  
414 information or disclosure as required by court order, other law or this chapter; and provided  
415 further, that such data and information shall be hosted in the United States.

416 (b) A sports governing body or players association representing athletes who participate  
417 in sporting events of the sports governing body may submit to the commission, in writing, by  
418 providing notice in a form and manner as the commission may require, a request to restrict, limit  
419 or exclude a certain type, form or category of sports wagering with respect to sporting events of  
420 the sports governing body, if the sports governing body or players association believes that such  
421 type, form or category of sports wagering with respect to sporting events of the sports governing  
422 body: (i) is contrary to public policy; (ii) unfair to consumers; (iii) may undermine the perceived  
423 integrity of the sports governing body, sporting events of the sports governing body or the

424 athletes participating therein; or (iv) affects the integrity of the sports governing body or sporting  
425 events of the sports governing body or the athletes participating therein.

426       The commission shall request comment from operators on all such requests. After giving  
427 due consideration to all comments received, the commission shall, upon a demonstration of good  
428 cause from the requestor, grant the request. The commission shall respond to a request  
429 concerning a particular event before the start of the event or, if it is not feasible to respond before  
430 the start of the event, not later than 7 days after the request is made; provided, however, that if  
431 the commission determines that the requestor is more likely than not to prevail in successfully  
432 demonstrating good cause for its request, the commission may provisionally grant the request  
433 until the commission makes a final determination as to whether the requestor has demonstrated  
434 good cause. Absent a provisional grant by the commission, an operator may continue to offer  
435 sports wagering on sporting events that are the subject of a request during the pendency of the  
436 consideration of the applicable request.

437       (c) The commission shall designate a state law enforcement entity to have primary  
438 responsibility for conducting, or assisting the commission in conducting, investigations into  
439 abnormal betting activity, match fixing and other conduct that corrupts a betting outcome of a  
440 sporting event for purposes of financial gain.

441       (d) The commission and operators shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate  
442 with investigations conducted by sports governing bodies or law enforcement agencies,  
443 including, but not limited to, using commercially reasonable efforts to provide or facilitate the  
444 provision of anonymized account-level betting information and audio or video files relating to  
445 persons placing wagers. All disclosures under this section are subject to the obligation of an

446 operator to comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations, including, but not  
447 limited to, laws and regulations relating to privacy and personally identifiable information.

448 (e) An operator shall immediately report to the commission any information relating to:  
449 (i) criminal or disciplinary proceedings commenced against the operator in connection with its  
450 operations; (ii) abnormal betting activity or patterns that may indicate a concern with the  
451 integrity of a sporting event; (iii) any potential breach of the internal rules and codes of conduct  
452 pertaining to sports wagering of a relevant sports governing body; (iv) any other conduct that  
453 corrupts a betting outcome of a sporting event for purposes of financial gain, including, but not  
454 limited to, match fixing; or (v) suspicious or illegal wagering activities, including, but not limited  
455 to: (A) use of funds derived from illegal activity; (B) wagers to conceal or launder funds derived  
456 from illegal activity; (C) use of agents to place wagers; and (D) use of false identification. An  
457 operator shall immediately report information relating to conduct described in clauses (ii), (iii)  
458 and (iv) of this subsection to the relevant sports governing body.

459 (f) The commission and operators shall maintain the confidentiality of information  
460 provided by a sports governing body for purposes of investigating or preventing the conduct  
461 described in clauses (ii), (iii) and (iv) of subsection (e), unless disclosure is required by this  
462 chapter, the commission, other law or court order or unless the sports governing body consents to  
463 disclosure.

464 (g) With respect to any information provided by an operator to a sports governing body  
465 relating to conduct described in clauses (ii), (iii) and (iv) of subsection (e), a sports governing  
466 body shall: (i) only use such information for integrity purposes and shall not use the information  
467 for any commercial or other purpose; and (ii) maintain the confidentiality of such information,



unless disclosure is required by this chapter, the commission, other law or court order or unless the operator consents to disclosure; provided, however, that the sports governing body may make any disclosure necessary to conduct and resolve integrity-related investigations and may publicly disclose such information if required by its integrity policies or if deemed by the sports governing body in its reasonable judgment to be necessary to maintain the actual or perceived integrity of its sporting events, and subject in all cases to the sports governing body's compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to privacy and personally identifiable information; and provided further, that prior to any such public disclosure that would identify the operator by name, the sports governing body shall provide the operator with notice of such disclosure and an opportunity to object to such disclosure.

(h) An operator shall maintain records of all wagers placed by its patrons, including: (i) personally identifiable information of a patron who places a sports wager through a mobile application or other digital platform or a patron who places an in-person sports wager that exceeds an amount determined by the commission; (ii) amount and type of the bet; (iii) the time the bet was placed; (iv) the location of the bet, including the Internet Protocol address if applicable; (v) the outcome of the bet; and (vi) records of abnormal betting activity for 3 years after a sporting event occurs and video camera recordings in the case of in-person wagers for at least 1 year after a sporting event occurs. An operator shall make these records available for inspection upon request of the commission or as required by court order.

(i) An operator shall use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain, in real time and at the account level, anonymized information for each patron, including: (i) the amount and type of bet; (ii) the time the bet was placed; (iii) the location of the bet, including the Internet Protocol

491 address if applicable; (iv) the outcome of the bet; and (v) records of abnormal betting activity.  
492 The commission may request the information in the form and manner as it requires. Nothing in  
493 this section shall require an operator to provide any information prohibited by federal, state or  
494 local laws or regulations, including, but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to privacy  
495 and personally identifiable information.

496 (j) If a sports governing body has notified the commission and demonstrated a need for  
497 access to the information described in subsection (i) for wagers placed on sporting events of the  
498 sports governing body for integrity monitoring purposes and demonstrated the capability to use  
499 the data for the purpose of effectively monitoring the integrity of sporting events of the sports  
500 governing body, an operator shall share, in a commercially reasonable frequency, form and  
501 manner, with the sports governing body or its designee the same information the operator is  
502 required to maintain pursuant to said subsection (i) with respect to sports wagers on sporting  
503 events of the sports governing body. A sports governing body and its designee shall only use  
504 information received pursuant to this section for integrity-monitoring purposes and shall not use  
505 information received pursuant to this section for any commercial or other purpose. Nothing in  
506 this section shall require an operator to provide any information that is prohibited by federal,  
507 state or local law or regulation, including, but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to  
508 privacy and personally identifiable information.

509 (k)(1) An operator shall conduct a background check on each newly hired employee.  
510 Background checks shall search for criminal history, charges or convictions involving corruption  
511 or manipulation of sporting events and association with organized crime.

(2) An operator shall conduct a single background check on any employee hired before the operator was issued an operator license. Background checks shall search for criminal history, charges or convictions involving corruption or manipulation of sporting events and association with organized crime.

Section 12. (a) An operator shall: (i) employ a monitoring system utilizing software to identify irregularities in volume or changes in odds that could signal suspicious activities and promptly report such information to the commission for further investigation; provided, however, that system requirements and specifications shall be developed according to industry standards and implemented by the commission as part of the minimum internal control standards; (ii) promptly report to the commission any facts or circumstances related to the operation of a sports wagering license that constitute a violation of state or federal law and promptly report to the appropriate state or federal authorities any suspicious betting over a threshold set by the operator that has been approved by the commission; (iii) conduct all sports wagering activities and functions in a manner that does not pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare of the residents of the commonwealth; (iv) keep current in all payments and obligations to the commission; (v) prevent any person from tampering or interfering with the operation of any sports wagering; (vi) ensure that mobile sports wagering occurs only using a commission-approved mobile application or other digital platform to accept wagers initiated within the commonwealth; (vii) maintain sufficient cash and other supplies to conduct sports wagering at all times; (viii) maintain daily records showing the gross sports wagering receipts and adjusted gross sports wagering receipts of the operator from sports wagering; (ix) timely file with the commission any additional reports required by this chapter or by any rule or regulation;

534 and (x) use commercially reasonable efforts to prevent a person under 21 years old from placing  
535 a wager.

536 (b) Sports wagering operators may use any data source for determining:

537 (1) the results of any and all tier 1 sports wagers on any and all sporting events; and

538 (2) the results of any and all tier 2 sports wagers on sporting events of an organization  
539 that is not headquartered in the United States.

540 (c) A sports governing body may notify the commission that it desires sports wagering  
541 operators to use official league data to settle tier 2 sports wagers on sporting events of such  
542 sports governing body. The notification shall be made in the form and manner as the commission  
543 may require. Within 5 days of receipt of the notification, the commission shall notify each sports  
544 wagering operator of the requirement to use official league data to settle tier 2 sports wagers. If a  
545 sports governing body does not notify the commission of its desire to supply official league data,  
546 a sports wagering operator may use any data source for determining the results of any and all tier  
547 2 sports wagers on sporting events of the sports governing body.

548 (d) Within 60 days of the commission notifying a sports wagering operator of the  
549 requirement to use official league data to settle tier 2 sports wagers pursuant to subsection (c), or  
550 such longer period as may be agreed between the sports governing body and the applicable  
551 sports wagering operator, a sports wagering operator shall use only official league data to  
552 determine the results of tier 2 sports wagers on sporting events of that sports governing body,  
553 unless:

554 (1) the sports governing body or its designee cannot provide a feed of official league data  
555 to determine the results of a particular type of tier 2 sports wager, in which case a sports  
556 wagering operator may use any data source for determining the results of the applicable tier 2  
557 sports wager until such time a data feed becomes available from the sports governing body on  
558 commercially reasonable terms and conditions; or

559 (2) a sports wagering operator can demonstrate to the commission that the sports  
560 governing body or its designee will not provide a feed of official league data to the sports  
561 wagering operator on commercially reasonable terms and conditions.

562 (e) In evaluating whether official league data is offered on commercially reasonable  
563 terms and conditions for purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d), the commission  
564 may consider factors, including, but not limited to:

565 (1) the availability of official league data to a sports wagering operator from more than 1  
566 authorized source;

567 (2) market information, including, but not limited to, price and other terms and conditions  
568 regarding the purchase by sports wagering operators of comparable data for the purpose of  
569 settling sports wagers in the commonwealth and other jurisdictions;

570 (3) the nature and quantity of data, including the quality and complexity of the process  
571 used for collecting the data; and

572 (4) the extent to which a sports governing body or its designee has made data used to  
573 settle tier 2 wagers available to sports wagering operators and any terms and conditions relating  
574 to the use of that data.

575 (f) Notwithstanding subsection (d) or any provision of this subsection to the contrary,  
576 during the pendency of the determination of the commission as to whether a sports governing  
577 body or its designee may provide official league data on commercially reasonable terms, a sports  
578 wagering operator may use any data source to determine the results of tier 2 sports wagers. The  
579 determination shall be made within 120 days of the sports wagering operator notifying the  
580 commission that it requests to demonstrate that the sports governing body or its designee will not  
581 provide a feed of official league data to the sports wagering operator on commercially reasonable  
582 terms.

583 (g) A sports governing body may enter into commercial agreements with a sports  
584 wagering operator or other entity in which such sports governing body may share in the amount  
585 wagered or revenues derived from sports wagering on sporting events of the sports governing  
586 body. A sports governing body shall not be required to obtain a license or any other approval  
587 from the commission to lawfully accept such amounts or revenues.

588 Section 13. (a) Holders of category 1 and category 2 licenses may accept wagers on  
589 sports events and other events authorized pursuant to this chapter in person at authorized  
590 facilities.

591 (b) Holders of an operator license may accept wagers on sports events and other events  
592 authorized pursuant to this chapter from individuals physically located within the commonwealth  
593 using mobile applications or digital platforms approved by the commission, through the patron's  
594 sports wagering account. The branding for each mobile application or digital platform shall be  
595 determined by the operator. All bets authorized pursuant to this section must be initiated,  
596 received and otherwise made within the commonwealth. Consistent with the intent of the federal



Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, 31 U.S.C. section 5361 to 5367, inclusive, the intermediate routing of electronic data related to a lawful intrastate wager authorized pursuant to this chapter shall not determine the location or locations in which the wager is initiated, received or otherwise made.

(c) An operator may: (i) accept wagers placed by other operators and (ii) place wagers with other operators; provided, that any operator that places a wager with another operator shall inform the operator accepting the wager that the wager is being placed by an operator and shall disclose the operator's identity.

(d) An operator shall not accept: (i) a wager from a person who is less than 21 years of age; or (ii) a credit card .

(e)(1) The commission or operator may ban any person from participating in the play or operation of any sports wagering consistent with rules and regulations promulgated by the commission. A list of all excluded patrons shall be kept by the commission and provided to each licensee. No patron on the exclusion list shall be permitted to conduct sports wagering pursuant to this chapter.

(2) The commission shall establish a list of self-excluded persons from sports wagering. A person may request their name to be placed on the list of self-excluded persons by filing a statement with the commission acknowledging that they are a problem gambler and by agreeing that, during any period of voluntary exclusion, they shall not collect any winnings or recover any losses resulting from any sports wagering. The commission shall adopt further regulations for the self-excluded persons list including procedures for placement, removal and transmittal of the list to sports wagering operators. The commission may revoke, limit, condition, suspend or fine a

619 sports wagering operator if the operator knowingly or recklessly fails to exclude or eject from its  
620 premises any person placed on the list of self-excluded persons. The list of self-excluded persons  
621 from sports wagering shall not be open to public inspection.

622 (3) An operator that operates sports wagering through a mobile application or other  
623 digital platform may allow patrons to set self-imposed limitations on sports wagering when the  
624 patron joins the mobile application or digital platform.

625 (f) No employee may place a sports wager at any facility or through any mobile  
626 application or digital platform owned or operated by their employer.

627 (g) Sections 24, 24A and 27 of chapter 10 of the General Laws shall not apply to an  
628 operator conducting sports wagering in accordance with this chapter.

629 (h) Unclaimed winning sports wagers shall be retained by the operator for the person  
630 entitled to the wager for 1 year after the game or event in which the wager was won. If no claim  
631 is made for the wager within 1 year, the cash or equivalent cash value of the wager shall be  
632 deposited in the Sports Wagering Control Fund established in section 15.

633 Section 14. (a) An excise is hereby imposed upon sports wagering operators in the  
634 commonwealth at the rate of: (i) 15 per cent of the operator's adjusted gross sports wagering  
635 receipts from the operation of in-person sports wagering; (ii) 20 per cent of the operator's  
636 adjusted gross sports wagering receipts from the operation of sports wagering through mobile  
637 applications and other digital platforms approved by the commission; and (iii) 15 per cent of the  
638 adjusted gross fantasy wagering receipts of a person or entity that offers fantasy contests, as  
639 defined in section 11M½. The accrual method of accounting shall be used for purposes of

calculating the amount of the tax owed by the licensee. The excise shall be paid to the commission at the time provided for filing the return pursuant to subsection (b).

(b)(1) The excise imposed and collected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be due and payable to the commission in monthly installments on or before the fifteenth calendar day following the calendar month in which the adjusted gross sports wagering receipts were received.

(2) On or before the fifteenth calendar day of each month, the operator shall complete and submit the return for the preceding month by electronic communication to the commission in a form prescribed by the commission that provides:

(i) the total gross sports wagering receipts and adjusted gross sports wagering receipts from operation of sports wagering during that month;

(ii) the total gross fantasy wagering receipts and adjusted gross fantasy wagering receipts from the offering of fantasy contests, as defined in section 11M½ of chapter 12, during that month;

(iii) the tax amount for which an operator or a person or entity that offers fantasy contests, as defined in said section 11M½ of said chapter 12, is liable; and

(iv) any additional information necessary in the computation and collection of the tax on adjusted gross sports wagering receipts and adjusted gross fantasy wagering receipts required by the commission.

(3) The excise amount shown to be due shall be remitted by electronic funds transfer simultaneously with the filing of the return.

660           (4) When an operator's adjusted gross sports wagering receipts for a month is a negative  
661   number because the winnings paid to wagerers and excise taxes paid pursuant to federal law  
662   exceed the operator's total gross receipts from sports wagering, the commission shall allow the  
663   operator to carry over the negative amount to returns filed for subsequent months. The negative  
664   amount of adjusted gross sports wagering receipts shall not be carried back to an earlier month  
665   and taxes previously received by the commission shall not be refunded unless the operator  
666   surrenders its license and the operator's last return reported negative adjusted gross sports  
667   wagering receipts.

668           (c) The excise on adjusted gross sports wagering receipts imposed by this section shall be  
669   in lieu of all other state and local taxes and fees imposed on the operation of, or the proceeds  
670   from operation of, sports wagering.

671           (d) Annually, not later than July 1, the commission shall publish on its website a report  
672   stating the amount in fees, surcharges and civil penalties received from operators and taxes  
673   received from operators and from people or entities that offer fantasy contests, as defined in  
674   section 11M½ of chapter 12.

675           Section 15. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
676   separate fund to be known as the Sports Wagering Control Fund. The commission shall be the  
677   trustee of the fund and shall expend money to finance the operational activities of the  
678   commission pertaining to sports wagering. The fund shall be credited with: (i) any appropriation,  
679   bond proceeds or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be  
680   credited thereto; (ii) the proceeds of any fees collected pursuant to this section unless otherwise  
681   specified; (iii) fees collected pursuant to sections 7 and 8; (iv) breaks; and (v) such additional

682 funds as are subject to the direction and control of the commission. All available money in the  
683 fund that is unexpended at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and  
684 shall be available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

685 (b) The commission shall establish fees for any investigation into a violation of this  
686 chapter or regulation promulgated hereunder by a sports wagering operator to be paid by the  
687 sports wagering operator including, but not limited to, billable hours by commission staff  
688 involved in the investigation and the costs of services, equipment or other expenses that are  
689 incurred by the commission during the investigation.

690 (c) Any remaining costs of the commission necessary to maintain regulatory control over  
691 sports wagering operators that are not covered by: (i) the fees set forth in subsection (b); (ii) any  
692 other fees assessed pursuant to this chapter; or (iii) any other designated sources of funding, shall  
693 be annually assessed on sports wagering operators pursuant to this chapter in proportion to each  
694 operator's share of the commonwealth's total adjusted gross sports wagering receipts. Each  
695 operator shall pay the amount assessed against the operator not more than 30 days after the date  
696 of the notice of assessment from the commission.

697 (d) If the fees collected pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) exceed the cost required to  
698 maintain regulatory control, the surplus funds shall be credited in proportional shares against  
699 each sports wagering operator's next assessment.

700 (e) The commission shall annually assess and collect a \$1,000,000 fee in shares to be  
701 determined by the commission against each sports wagering operator that is not a category 1 or  
702 category 2 gaming licensee, as defined in section 2 of chapter 23K. The fee collected pursuant to  
703 this subsection shall be deposited into the Public Health Trust Fund established in section 58 of

704 said chapter 23K and shall be used for the costs of services and public health programs provided  
705 for in said section 58 of said chapter 23K.

706       Section 16. (a) The commission may assess a civil administrative penalty on an operator  
707 who fails to comply with any provision of this chapter, house rules or any regulation or order  
708 adopted by the commission; provided, however, that the noncompliance shall have occurred after  
709 the commission has given such operator written notice of the noncompliance and the time stated  
710 in the notice for coming into compliance has elapsed; provided further, that the commission may  
711 assess a penalty without providing written notice if the failure to comply: (i) was part of a pattern  
712 of noncompliance and not an isolated instance; (ii) was willful or neglectful and not the result of  
713 error; (iii) resulted in a significant breach to the integrity of the operator or the sports wagering  
714 laws of the commonwealth; or (iv) consisted of failure to promptly report to the commission any  
715 knowledge of evidence or circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a  
716 violation of this chapter has been committed. The civil administrative penalty shall be in addition  
717 to any other civil penalty that may be prescribed by law.

718       (b) For the purpose of determining whether such noncompliance was part of a pattern of  
719 noncompliance and not an isolated instance, the commission shall consider, but not be limited to;  
720 (i) whether the commission had previously notified the operator of such noncompliance on more  
721 than 1 occasion during the previous month or of any noncompliance with the same provision of a  
722 law, regulation, order, license or approval as the current noncompliance during the previous 6-  
723 month period; or (ii) whether the current and previous instances of noncompliance, considered  
724 together, indicate a potential threat to the integrity of the operator and sports wagering in the  
725 commonwealth or an interference with the commission's ability to efficiently and effectively  
726 regulate sports wagering in the commonwealth and enforce any regulation, license or order. If an

727 operator that has received a notice of noncompliance fails to come into compliance within the  
728 time period stated in the notice, the civil administrative penalty may be assessed by the  
729 commission upon the operator from the date of receipt of such notice.

730 (c) If the commission seeks to assess a civil administrative penalty on an operator, the  
731 commission shall cause to be served upon the operator, by service in hand or by certified mail,  
732 return receipt requested, a written notice of its intent to assess a civil administrative penalty that  
733 shall include: (i) a concise statement of the alleged act or omission for which such civil  
734 administrative penalty is sought to be assessed; (ii) each law, regulation, order, license or  
735 approval that has not been complied with as a result of such alleged act or omission; (iii) the  
736 amount that the commission seeks to assess as a civil administrative penalty for each alleged act  
737 or omission; (iv) a statement of the operator's right to an adjudicatory hearing on the proposed  
738 assessment; (v) the requirements the operator shall comply with to avoid being deemed to have  
739 waived the right to an adjudicatory hearing; and (vi) the manner of payment thereof if the  
740 operator elects to pay the penalty and waive an adjudicatory hearing. After written notice of  
741 noncompliance or intent to assess a civil administrative penalty has been given, each day  
742 thereafter during which noncompliance occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense  
743 and shall be subject to a separate civil administrative penalty if reasonable efforts have not been  
744 made by the operator to promptly come into compliance.

745 (d) If the commission seeks to assess a civil administrative penalty on an operator, the  
746 operator shall have the right to an adjudicatory hearing under chapter 30A, the provisions of  
747 which shall apply except when they are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.



(c) An operator shall be deemed to have waived its right to an adjudicatory hearing unless, not more than 21 days after the date of the commission's notice that the commission seeks to assess a civil administrative penalty, the operator files with the commission a written statement denying the occurrence of any of the acts or omissions alleged by the commission in the notice or asserting that the amount of the proposed civil administrative penalty is excessive. In an adjudicatory hearing authorized under chapter 30A, the commission shall be required to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, the occurrence of each act or omission alleged by the commission in the notice.

(f) If an operator waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, the proposed civil administrative penalty shall be final immediately upon such waiver. If a civil administrative penalty is assessed at the conclusion of an adjudicatory hearing, the civil administrative penalty shall be final upon the expiration of 30 days unless an action for judicial review of the decision is commenced under chapter 30A.

(g) An operator who institutes proceedings for judicial review of the final assessment of a civil administrative penalty shall place the full amount of the final assessment in an interest-bearing escrow account in the custody of the clerk or magistrate of the reviewing court. The establishment of an interest-bearing escrow account shall be a condition precedent to the jurisdiction of the reviewing court unless the party seeking judicial review demonstrates, in a preliminary hearing held not more than 20 days after the filing of the complaint, the presence of a substantial question for review by the court or the operator's inability to pay. Upon such a demonstration, the court may grant an extension or waiver of the interest-bearing escrow account requirement or may require, in lieu of such interest-bearing escrow account, the posting of a

770 bond payable directly to the commonwealth in the amount of 125 per cent of the assessed  
771 penalty.

772 If, after judicial review, in a case where the escrow account requirement has been waived,  
773 and in cases where a bond has been posted in lieu of such requirement, the court affirms, in  
774 whole or in part, the assessment of a civil administrative penalty, the commission shall be paid  
775 the amount thereof together with interest at the rate provided in section 6C of chapter 231. If,  
776 after judicial review in a case where an interest-bearing escrow account has been established, the  
777 court affirms the assessment of such penalty, in whole or in part, the commission shall be paid  
778 the amount thereof together with the accumulated interest in the interest-bearing escrow account.  
779 If the court sets aside the assessment of a civil administrative penalty in a case where the amount  
780 of such penalty has been deposited in an interest-bearing escrow account, the operator on whom  
781 the civil administrative penalty was assessed shall be repaid the amount so set aside, together  
782 with the accumulated interest thereon.

783 (h) Each operator who fails to timely pay a civil administrative penalty and each operator  
784 who issues a bond under this section and fails to timely pay to the commission the amount  
785 required for the bond, shall be liable to the commonwealth for up to 3 times the amount of the  
786 civil administrative penalty, together with costs, plus interest accrued from the time the civil  
787 administrative penalty became final and attorneys' fees, including all costs and attorneys fees  
788 incurred directly in the collection of the penalty. The rate of interest shall be the rate provided in  
789 section 6C of chapter 231. The commission may require that the amount of a civil administrative  
790 penalty imposed under this section exceed any economic benefit realized by a person.

(i) The commission may impose conditions on, suspend or revoke an operator's license or reprimand or assess a fine on an operator upon a finding that the operator: (i) has committed a criminal or civil offense under this chapter or under any other law; (ii) is not in compliance with sports wagering regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter; (iii) is under criminal investigation in another jurisdiction; (iv) has breached a condition of licensure; (v) has affiliates, close associates or employees that are not qualified or licensed under this chapter with whom the operator continues to conduct business or employ; (vi) is no longer capable of maintaining operations as a sports wagering operator; or (vii) whose business practice, upon a determination by the commission, is injurious to the policy objectives of this chapter.

Section 17. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a Sports Wagering Fund which shall receive revenues collected pursuant to sections 6 and 14. The commission shall be the trustee of the fund and shall transfer monies from the fund as follows:

(1) 45 per cent to the General Fund;

(2) 17.5 per cent to the Workforce Investment Trust Fund established in section 18;

(3) 27.5 per cent to the Gaming Local Aid Fund established in section 63 of section 23K;

(4) 1 per cent to the Youth Development and Achievement Fund established in section 19; and

(5) 9 per cent to the Public Health Trust Fund established in section 58 of section 23K.

Section 18. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Workforce Investment Trust Fund. There shall be credited to the fund any sports wagering revenue transferred from the Sports Wagering Fund pursuant to

section 16. Monies transferred to the fund shall be continuously expended, without regard for fiscal year, exclusively for carrying out the purposes of this section. Money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

(b) The fund shall be administered by the secretary of housing and economic development. Money in the fund shall be competitively granted to develop and strengthen workforce opportunities for low-income communities and vulnerable youth and young adults in the commonwealth, including providing opportunities and strategies to promote stable employment and wage growth.

(c) Eligible grant recipients shall provide opportunities which: (i) target at risk youth, including resources to empower youth to succeed in the workforce; (ii) provide job skills trainings, including programs offering trainings in multiple languages and areas for development, including education and hands on skills; (iii) promote adult literacy, including strategies to master reading and writing and providing digital formats to increase accessibility; and (iv) provide English language learning programs to promote access to the workforce. The secretary of housing and economic development shall establish criteria to evaluate applications for the grant program; provided, that the criteria shall include, but shall not be limited to, at risk populations; provided further, that preference shall be given to eligible grant recipients providing opportunities for individuals who meet at least 2 of the following: (i) is under 30 years of age; (ii) is a victim of violence; (iii) is over 18 years of age and does not have a high school diploma; (iv) has been convicted of a felony; (v) has been unemployed or has had a family income below 250 per cent of the federal poverty level for not less than 6 months; (vi) lives in a census tract where over 20 per cent of the populations fall below the federal poverty line; or (vii) is an immigrant, refugee or person of color.

835           (d) Annually, not later than October 1, the secretary of housing and economic  
836 development shall provide a report of the grants given and a breakdown of expenditures made by  
837 the fund. The report shall be posted on the website of the executive office of housing and  
838 economic development.

839           Section 18. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
840 fund to be known as the Youth Development and Achievement Fund. The fund shall be credited  
841 any monies transferred from the Sports Wagering Fund pursuant to section 16 and all monies  
842 credited to or transferred to the fund from any other fund or source. Expenditures from the fund  
843 shall be subject to appropriation and shall be expended equally for the following purposes:

844           (1) For the purposes of providing financial assistance to students from the commonwealth  
845 enrolled in and pursuing a program of higher education in any approved public or independent  
846 college, university, school of nursing or any other approved institution furnishing a program of  
847 higher education;

848           (2) For the purposes of funding after-school and out-of-school activities, including, but  
849 not limited to, youth athletics and other activities that improve student health, literacy programs,  
850 English language learning programs, academic tutoring, art, theater and music programs and  
851 community service programs; and

852           (3) For the purposes of providing matching grants to elementary and secondary youth  
853 sports, organizations, clubs and other school groups to attend events including, but not limited to,  
854 academic events and programs, cultural events and award ceremonies both nationally and  
855 internationally.

Section 20. The commission shall conduct a study into the feasibility of allowing retail locations in the commonwealth to operate sports wagering kiosks. The study by the commission shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of: (i) the economic impact of this chapter on retail establishments that serve alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption, such as restaurants and bars; (ii) which retail locations have the ability to operate a sports wagering kiosk; (iii) the economic impact to the commonwealth of authorizing retail locations to operate a sports wagering kiosk; (iv) the methods and availability of payouts of winnings by a sports wagering kiosks at retail locations; (v) the public health and safety impacts to the commonwealth of authorizing retail locations to operate a sports wagering kiosk; (vi) the potential effect of sports wagering kiosks at retail locations on problem gaming or gambling; (vii) the impact of sports wagering kiosks at retail locations on minors; (viii) the economic impact of authorizing this method of sports wagering on businesses owned by people of color; (ix) the public health and economic impact of this method of sports wagering as an alternative to the current black market, particularly in communities far from authorized in-person sports wagering; and (x) recommendations to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion are included in this method of sports wagering. As part of the study, the commission shall consult retailers, convenience stores, restaurants, women and minority owned businesses and small business owners. The commission shall report on its findings and submit any recommendations to the clerks of the house and senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on consumer protection and professional licensure and the joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies no later than December 31, 2022.

Section 21. (a) The commission may impose on any person who violates this chapter a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,000 for each violation or \$5,000 for violations arising from the

879 same series of events. Such penalty shall be imposed on all persons and is not limited to persons  
880 licensed under this chapter.

881 (b) The commission may condition, suspend, reprimand, assess a fine or revoke an  
882 operator license upon a finding that a licensee: (i) has committed a criminal or civil offense  
883 under this chapter or under any other laws of the commonwealth; (ii) is not in compliance with  
884 sports wagering regulations; (iii) is under criminal investigation in another jurisdiction; (iv) has  
885 breached a condition of licensure; (v) has affiliates, close associates or employees that are not  
886 qualified or licensed under this chapter with whom the licensee continues to conduct business or  
887 employ; (vi) is no longer capable of maintaining operations as a sports wagering operator or data  
888 supplier; or (vii) whose business practice, upon a determination by the commission,  
889 is injurious to the policy objectives of this chapter.

890 Section 21. (a) Whoever, other than an operator under this chapter, engages in accepting,  
891 facilitating or operating a sports wagering operation shall be punished by imprisonment in the  
892 house of correction for not more than 90 days or by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or both; and for  
893 a second offense, by imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 6 months or by a  
894 fine of not more than \$50,000, or both; and in the case of a third or subsequent violation by  
895 imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 1 but not more than 5 years or by a fine of not  
896 less than \$25,000 and not more than \$100,000, or both.

897 Section 22. An operator shall not discharge, demote, suspend, threaten, harass or in any  
898 other manner discriminate against an employee because of any lawful act done by the employee  
899 to provide information, cause information to be provided or otherwise assist in an investigation



900 regarding any conduct that the employee reasonably believes constitutes a violation of this  
901 chapter.

902       Section 23. (a) The commission shall develop an annual research agenda in order to  
903 understand the social and economic effects of sports wagering in the commonwealth and to  
904 obtain scientific information relative to the neuroscience, psychology, sociology, epidemiology  
905 and etiology of sports wagering. The secretary of health and human services, with the advice and  
906 consent of the commission, may expend funds from the Public Health Trust Fund established in  
907 section 58 of chapter 23K to implement the objectives of the sports wagering research agenda;  
908 provided, however, that the objectives of the sports wagering research agenda shall, to the extent  
909 practicable, be substantially similar to the objectives of the research agenda established under  
910 section 71 of said chapter 23K. The sports wagering research agenda shall also include, but not  
911 be limited to: (i) an assessment of whether problem sports wagering is comorbid with problem  
912 gambling; (ii) an assessment as to whether the individuals participating in sports wagering are  
913 different than those who participate in other forms of gaming or gambling; (iii) an assessment of  
914 the impact of sports wagering on youth under the age of 25; (iv) an assessment of the impacts of  
915 sports wagering on college athletics and professional sports; and (v) the costs of implementing  
916 this chapter.

917       (b) Annually, the commission shall make scientifically-based recommendations that  
918 reflect the results of the research under clause (a) to the clerks of the senate and house of  
919 representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on  
920 economic development and emerging technologies, the joint committee on mental health,  
921 substance use and recovery and the joint committee on public health. The commission shall  
922 consider any such recommendations, research and findings in all decisions related to enhancing

923 responsible gambling and mitigating problem sports wagering. The recommendations shall be  
924 posted on the commission's website.

925 SECTION 6. Chapter 128C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the  
926 following new section:-

927 Section 9. Notwithstanding sections 1 to 8, inclusive, or any other general or special law  
928 to the contrary, no racing meeting licensee, including licensees holding racing meetings in  
929 connection with a state or county fair as defined in section 1 of chapter 128A, shall simulcast or  
930 accept a wager on greyhound dog racing, and a running horse racing meeting licensee shall  
931 conduct not less than 20 live racing days at a thoroughbred horse racing track, provided, the  
932 commission may waive this requirement as necessary and appropriate to ensure the financial  
933 ability of the licensee to develop and operate a race track.

934 SECTION 7. Section 1 of chapter 137 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
935 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the figure "23K", in line 3, the following  
936 words:- or sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

937 SECTION 8. Section 2 of said chapter 137, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
938 inserting after the figure "23K", in line 3, the following words:- or an operator who offers sports  
939 wagering pursuant to chapter 23N.

940 SECTION 9. Section 3 of said chapter 137, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
941 inserting after the figure "23K", in line 7, the following words:- or sports wagering conducted  
942 pursuant to chapter 23N.

943           SECTION 10. Section 1 of chapter 271 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
944 amended by striking out, in line 4, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the  
945 following words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

946           SECTION 11. Section 2 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
947 striking out, in line 4, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following  
948 words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

949           SECTION 12. Section 3 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
950 striking out, in line 1, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following  
951 words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

952           SECTION 13. Section 5 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
953 striking out, in line 1, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following  
954 words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

955           SECTION 14. Section 5A of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is further amended by  
956 inserting after the words “chapter 23K”, in line 32, the following words:- or sports wagering  
957 conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

958           SECTION 15. Section 5B of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
959 striking out, in line 58, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following  
960 words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

961           SECTION 16. Section 8 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
962 striking out, in lines 10 to 11, the words “other game of chance that is not being conducted in a  
963 gaming establishment licensed under chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following

964 words:- other game that is not being conducted pursuant to chapter 23K and any other sports  
965 wagering that is not being conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

966 SECTION 17. Section 17 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
967 inserting after the words "chapter 23K", in line 27, the following words:- or for the purpose of  
968 sports wagering conducted in accordance with chapter 23N.

969 SECTION 18. Said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking  
970 out section 17A and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

971 Section 17A. Except as permitted under chapter 23N, whoever uses a telephone, internet  
972 or other communications technology or, being the occupant in control of premises where a  
973 telephone, internet or other communications technology is located or a subscriber for such  
974 communications technology, knowingly permits another to use a telephone, internet or other  
975 communications technology so located or for which such person subscribes, as the case may be,  
976 for the purpose of accepting wagers or bets, or buying or selling of pools, or for placing all or  
977 any portion of a wager with another, upon the result of a trial or contest of skill, speed or  
978 endurance of man, beast, bird or machine, or upon the result of an athletic game or contest, or  
979 upon the lottery called the numbers game, or for the purpose of reporting the same to a  
980 headquarters or booking office, or who under another name or otherwise falsely or fictitiously  
981 procures telephone, internet or other communications technology service for oneself or another  
982 for such purposes, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000 or by imprisonment for  
983 not more than 1 year; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to use of telephones or  
984 other devices or means to place wagers authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 5C of  
985 chapter 128A.

986 SECTION 19. Section 19 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
987 inserting after the words "chapter 23K", in line 19, the following words:- and shall not apply to  
988 advertising of sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

989 SECTION 20. Section 20 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
990 adding the following sentence:- Nothing in this section shall prohibit an operator licensed under  
991 chapter 23N from posting, advertising or displaying materials relevant to its sports wagering  
992 operations.

993 SECTION 21. Section 23 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
994 inserting after the words "chapter 23K", in line 31, the following words:- and shall not apply to  
995 sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

996 SECTION 22. Section 27 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
997 inserting after the word "thereto", in line 15, the following words:- ; provided, however, that  
998 such provisions shall not apply to sports wagering conducting pursuant to chapter 23N.

999 SECTION 23. Section 28 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
1000 inserting after the word "prescribed", in line 12, the following words:- ; provided, however, that  
1001 such provisions shall not apply to sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

1002 SECTION 24. Section 42 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
1003 inserting after the word "both", in line 4, the following words:- ; provided, however, that such  
1004 provisions shall not apply to sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

1005 SECTION 25. The Massachusetts gaming commission shall conduct a study on the  
1006 participation by minority business enterprises, women business enterprises and veteran business

1007 enterprises in the sports wagering industry in the commonwealth. The study shall include, but not  
1008 be limited to, an analysis of: (i) participation in activities related to the regulation, licensing and  
1009 promotion of sports wagering operators; (ii) the level of participation of women, minority and  
1010 veteran employees working for sports wagering licensees and employers; (iii) the level of  
1011 participation by minority-owned and women-owned businesses that contract with or provide  
1012 services to sports wagering licensees and employers; (iv) any barriers to employment of women  
1013 and minorities in the sports wagering industry; and (v) methods for increasing racial and gender  
1014 diversity in the workforce in the sports wagering industry, including whether to set reasonable  
1015 and appropriate goals and procedures for increasing the number of minority business enterprises  
1016 providing sports wagering industry-related services to sports wagering licensees and employers.  
1017 The commission shall report on its findings and submit any recommendations to the clerks of the  
1018 senate and house of representatives, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the  
1019 joint committee on racial equity, civil rights, and inclusion and the joint committee on economic  
1020 development and emerging technologies not later than December 31, 2022.

1021 SECTION 26. Section 135 of chapter 219 of the acts of 2016 is hereby repealed.

1022 SECTION 27. Sections 2 and 6 shall take effect 1 year after the effective date of this act.

# CITY OF GARDNER

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Manca Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 201 Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

Phone: (978) 630-4014 ♦ Fax: (978) 632-1905 ♦ CDBG (978) 632-3800



December 14, 2023

President Elizabeth J. Kazinskas  
c/o Titi Siriphan, City Clerk  
City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

Subject: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning," to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, "Marijuana Establishments" to Change the Method to Increase the Quota Allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner. *(Submitted by Councilor Dana Heath)*

At the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, the Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend the City Council approve and adopt the requested Zoning Amendment as referenced above to increase the quota. The Planning Board also voted to hold a Joint Public Hearing with the City Council.

Please do not hesitate to contact Trevor M. Beauregard, Director of Community Development and Planning if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron  
Chairman

Cc: Mayor  
Planning Board  
City Council  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Thomas Zuppa, Building Commissioner



**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 675 THEREOF, ENTITLED "ZONING," TO AMEND SECTION 1070 THEREOF, ENTITLED, "MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS" TO INCREASE THE QUOTE ALLOWED BY THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1:** Subsection (C)(8)(b) of Section 1070 of Chapter 675 of the Code of the City of Gardner be amended by replacing "20%" with "35%" as follows:

b) The number of marijuana retail establishments shall not exceed 35% of liquor licenses issued for retail sale of alcohol not consumed on the premises in the City of Gardner, said number to be rounded up to the next whole number;

**SECTION 2:** That this ordinance take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

# CITY OF GARDNER

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING



RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA  
MAY 30 PM 1:50

March 30, 2023

Elizabeth Kazinskas, Council President  
C/o Titi Sirphan, City Clerk  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: **Petition 10893** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner.

Dear President Kazinskas:

At its meeting on March 22, 2023, the Planning Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to recommend approving the proposed zoning amendment referenced above based on the information provided to them by the petitioner.

The Planning Board looks forward to joining the City Council at the joint public hearing scheduled on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Trevor Beauregard if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron, Planning Board Chairman

C: Mayor Michael J. Nicholson  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Richard Hanks, Interim Building Commissioner



## City of Gardner - *Executive Department*

Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

2023 MAR 30 AM 8:43  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 29, 2023

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

Mr. Mark Schafron, Chair  
And Planning Board Members  
Gardner City Hall, Manca Annex, Rm 201  
115 Pleasant St  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: Written Testimony: Item #10893: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning," to amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled "Marijuana Establishments" to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner

Dear Madam President, Councilors, Mr. Chairman, and Planning Board Members,

I am writing in support of the aforementioned zoning amendment proposal.

When the retail sale of cannabis products was legalized in the Commonwealth in 2019, several municipalities, including Gardner, took steps to heavily regulate the industry since we didn't really know what would happen once the cannabis industry became legalized.

Since then we have seen that commercial enterprises like these do not cause as much of a strain on our services as we had originally been concerned about and have not been a public safety concern at all for us.

This proposal seeks to loosen the market constraints in the City and simply let the economic market be the market. If the City does not have the capability of handling more up to four (4) retail cannabis stores, then the market will correct itself for that.

An example of this can be seen with the regular tobacco/vape smoke shops that used to exist in the Downtown area. These businesses, unregulated in terms of number of facilities that could open in the City, were not marketed by the City and simply opened and then consolidated from five (5) to one (1) on their own because that was all the market was able to carry.

The purpose of this amendment, while it also provides a financial benefit to the City through statutorily required sales tax and host community agreement fees, is simply to relax some of the regulations placed on this industry and let the City's economy play itself out. This does still regulate the retail cannabis industry to four (4) locations, but it at least loosens the restriction of only being able to allow two (2) locations in the City.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner



**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
 95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 \*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
 NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING, continued

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

- **10891** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 Thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Change the Classification of Certain Parcels of Land Along Route 140.
- **10892** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses.
- **10893** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner

Information regarding this amendment is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP), or on the City’s webpage – [www.gardner-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov).

All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
 City Clerk



**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440  
\*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

- **10891** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 Thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Change the Classification of Certain Parcels of Land Along Route 140.
- **10892** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses.
- **10893** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner

Information regarding this amendment is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP), or on the City’s webpage – [www.gardner-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov).

All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk



## City of Gardner - *Executive Department*

Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

February 3, 2023

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

RE: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning," to amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, "Marijuana Establishments" to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner.

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

As you are aware, in 2018, the retail sale of cannabis products became legalized in the Commonwealth.

When the City adopted the sale of Marijuana into our ordinances in November of 2018, the ordinances limited the number of establishments that could open in the City for the retail sale of cannabis to twenty percent (20%) of "license issues for retail sale of alcohol not consumed on the premises." (Code of the City of Gardner 675-1070(C)(8)(b)).

Whereas the City is currently issued ten (10) liquor licenses that fit this category, this provision of the City Code limited the number of retail cannabis locations to two (2) locations in the City.

One of the main reasons this quota limit was drafted was due to uncertainty as to how this new market would run its course in the City and the Commonwealth as a whole. However, since then, we have seen that these businesses do not provide a detriment to the City, and have seen the financial benefit the City receives from this as well.

The City currently has one retail location open with Sanctuary, with a second location – Bloc Cannabis – permitted at the Timpany Crossroads location.

This attached ordinance amendment proposal would increase the number of locations allowed in the City from two (2) to four (4). It is the belief of the Administration that this would allow more economic activity in the City based on inquiries that we have seen, keep the industry within a workable range that we are seeing in market trends with the cannabis industry around the Commonwealth, and done with the full support of our public safety departments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

CC:  
City Council Public Welfare Committee  
Planning Board

**CITY OF GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

200 Main Street  
Gardner, Massachusetts 01440  
Phone: (978) 632-5600  
Fax: (978) 632-9045



Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police

Nicholas P. Maroni  
Deputy Chief of Police

February 2, 2023

The Honorable Michael J. Nicholson, Mayor  
Gardner City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street  
Gardner, MA 01440

Re: Retail Marijuana Ordinance

Dear Mayor,

After reviewing the proposed ordinance change from two retail dispensary licenses to four, I do not see any issue with this particular change moving forward. Retail marijuana dispensaries have been operating in the state for the past few years and are closely monitored and regulated by the Cannabis Control Commission. Any retail dispensaries are required to have pre-determined surveillance camera coverage (inside and outside) and purpose-built safes for stored retail product. This is in addition to physical security during operating hours.

The Gardner Police Department has responded to calls at the current recreational retail dispensary, but the vast majority of the calls are general service calls (accidents, lockouts, burglar alarms, etc.). The police department rarely deals with anything else there.

We have conducted "compliance checks" at Sanctuary using underage youths to enter and purchase cannabis products. Sanctuary has never failed a compliance check. In fact, no youth has ever made it past the front door. I have spoken to law enforcement in other host dispensary locations and have not heard of any major issues.

If there are any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police





**City of Gardner**  
**Department of Inspectional Services**  
**115 Pleasant Street, Room 101**  
**Gardner, MA 01440**  
Tel. (978) 630-4007 Fax: (978) 632-3313

---

Feb. 7, 2023

RE: Marijuana Retail Establishments

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I believe the text amendment regarding the number of Marijuana Retail Establishments will only increase opportunities in the City for revenue, and jobs. From a Zoning standpoint I have seen no ill effects from the existing Marijuana Facility. I currently have an application for a Building permit for a second facility which would leave us with no additional licenses. This would in effect tie our hands regarding further growth. I am in full support of this proposal.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further assistance.

Roland Jean  
Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer  
City Hall Annex  
115 Pleasant St. RM 101  
Gardner, MA 01440  
(978) 630 4007  
rjean@gardner-ma.gov

**Mission Statement**

To promote the safe and compatible development of the community through fair and consistent enforcement of building codes and zoning ordinances

**Mayor**

---

**From:** John Richard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Marijuana Fees History

Hi Mike

Here you go.

Description	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
MARIJUANA HCA FEES	\$ 26,367.11	\$ 124,076.56	\$ 132,015.11	\$ 118,394.64	\$ 47,072.12
MARIJUANA SALES EXCISE TAX	\$ 104,773.64	\$ 237,668.25	\$ 306,969.74	\$ 383,850.54	\$ 50,330.46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 131,140.75</b>	<b>\$ 361,744.81</b>	<b>\$ 438,984.85</b>	<b>\$ 502,245.18</b>	<b>\$ 97,402.58</b>

John Richard  
City Auditor



95 Pleasant Street, Room 114  
Gardner, MA 01440-2630  
978-632-1900 ext 8020

**Mayor**

---

**From:** Ashley Metivier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 11:04 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Liquor Retail - Not Consumed on Premise

Hi Mike,

We have 10 locations licensed as retail sale, not consumed on premises:

Malt/Wine Packaged Goods

Town Convenience, 13 Pine St  
BP, 221 Main St  
South Gardner Mini Mart, 94 S. Main St  
Jays Variety, 32 E. Broadway  
Price Chopper, 500 Main St

All Alcohol Packaged Goods

Beauregard Liquors, 11 West St  
Brazells, 201 Pleasant St  
Hannaford, 14-20 Timpany Blvd  
Gardner Spirits, 364 Timpany Blvd  
Anthony's, 12 Pearson Blvd

Let me know if you need any more information!

**Ashley Metivier**  
**Administrative Assistant/License Commission Clerk**  
City of Gardner  
95 Pleasant St, Room 29  
Gardner, MA 01440  
P: 978-630-4013 Ext: 8042  
F: 978-632-4682  
E: [AMetivier@gardner-ma.gov](mailto:AMetivier@gardner-ma.gov)

**Confidentiality Notice:** This email message, including any attachments, is for the use of the intended recipient(s) only and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and prohibited from unauthorized disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message and attachments. Please be advised that the Massachusetts Secretary of State considers e-mail to be a public record, and therefore subject to public access under the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66 section 10

# Current Ordinance

City of Gardner, MA  
Friday, February 3, 2023

## Chapter 675. Zoning

### Article X. Supplemental Regulations

#### § 675-1070. Marijuana establishments.

##### A. Purpose.

- (1) To provide for the placement of marijuana establishments in appropriate places and under conditions in accordance with the provisions of MGL c. 94G.
- (2) To minimize the adverse impacts of marijuana establishments on adjacent properties, residential neighborhoods, schools and other places where children congregate, local historic districts, and other sensitive land uses potentially incompatible with said establishments.
- (3) To regulate the siting, design, placement, security, safety, monitoring, modification, and discontinuance of marijuana establishments.

##### B. Applicability.

- (1) No marijuana establishment shall be established except in compliance with the provisions of § 675-410 (Schedule of permitted uses) and this § 675-1070 (Marijuana establishments).
- (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede federal and state laws governing the sale and distribution of Class 1 Controlled Substances.
- (3) If any provision of this section or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this section, to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of those provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

##### C. General requirements and conditions for all marijuana establishments.

- (1) All marijuana establishments shall be contained within a building or structure.
- (2) The hours of operation of marijuana establishments shall be set by the special permit granting authority.
- (3) No marijuana establishment property line shall be located within 500 linear feet of a lot line where the following districts, activity, or uses occur:
  - (a) (Reserved)<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> *Editor's Note: Former Subsection C(3)(a), regarding nonconforming residential dwellings, was repealed 9-3-2019 by Ord. No. 1625.*
  - (b) Any church, public or private school or child-care facility; or place where minors frequent (e.g., a library, ball field, park, sports or family recreation facility, religious facility or the like);
  - (c) Any other marijuana establishment;
  - (d) Any drug or alcohol rehabilitation facility; or
  - (e) Any correctional facility, halfway house or similar facility.
- (4) No smoking, burning or consumption of any product containing marijuana or marijuana-related products shall be permitted on the premises of a marijuana establishment.

- (5) No marijuana establishment shall be located inside a building containing residential units, including transient housing such as motels and dormitories, or inside a movable or mobile structure such as a van or truck.
- (6) Marijuana establishments shall provide the Gardner Police and Fire Departments, Building Commissioner, Board of Health, and the special permit granting authority with the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all management staff and key holders to whom one can provide notice if there are operating problems associated with the establishment.
- (7) The City shall have access at any time to inspect the premises of the marijuana establishment to ensure compliance with local and state regulations, excluding client health information protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.
- (8) Pursuant to MGL c. 94G, § 3(a)(2)(i) to (iii), the maximum number of licensed marijuana establishments in the City shall be consistent with the following provisions:
  - (a) Shall not prohibit one or more types of marijuana establishment;
  - (b) The number of marijuana retail establishments shall not exceed 20% of liquor licenses issued for retail sale of alcohol not consumed on the premises in the City of Gardner, said number to be rounded up to the next whole number;
  - (c) The number of marijuana establishments shall not prevent the conversion of a medical marijuana treatment center licensed or registered no later than July 1, 2017, to a marijuana establishment engaged in the same type of activity.

[Amended 9-3-2019 by Ord. No. 1625]

D. Special permit requirements.

- (1) No special permit for any marijuana establishment shall be issued without site plan approval first having been obtained from the Planning Board, § 675-1010, Site plan review, of this chapter. In addition to the standards set forth within, the site plan must meet all dimensional, parking, landscaping, and signage requirements within this chapter.
- (2) A marijuana establishment shall only be allowed by special permit from the Gardner Planning Board in accordance with MGL c. 40A, § 9, subject to the following statements, regulations, requirements, conditions and limitations.
- (3) A special permit for a marijuana establishment shall be limited to one or more of the following uses that shall be specified by the special permit granting authority:
  - (a) Marijuana cultivator;
  - (b) Marijuana product manufacturer;
  - (c) Marijuana retailer;
  - (d) Marijuana testing facility;
  - (e) Marijuana transportation or distribution facility; and
  - (f) Any other type of licensed marijuana-related business.
- (4) In addition to the application requirements set forth above, a special permit application for a marijuana establishment shall include the following:
  - (a) The name and address of each owner of the establishment;
  - (b) Copies of all required licenses and permits issued to the applicant by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission and any of its other agencies for the establishment;
  - (c) Evidence of the applicant's right to use the site of the establishment for the establishment, such as a purchase and sale agreement, deed, owner's authorization, or lease;
  - (d) Proposed security measures for the marijuana establishment, including lighting, fencing, gates and alarms, etc., to ensure the safety of persons and to protect the premises from theft. A letter

from the City of Gardner Police Chief, or designee, acknowledging review and approval of the marijuana establishment security plan is required. To the extent allowed by law, all such documents shall be confidential.

- (5) Mandatory findings. The special permit granting authority shall not issue a special permit for a marijuana establishment unless it finds that:
  - (a) The establishment is designed to minimize any adverse impacts on abutters and other parties in interest, as defined in MGL c. 40A, § 11.
  - (b) The establishment demonstrates that it will meet all the permitting requirements of all applicable agencies within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will comply with all applicable state laws and regulations; and
  - (c) The applicant has satisfied all the conditions and requirements set forth herein.
- (6) A special permit granted under this section shall have a term limited to the duration of the applicant's ownership or leasehold of the premises as a marijuana establishment. A special permit may be transferred only with the approval of the special permit granting authority in the form of an amendment to the special permit with all information required in this § 675-1070.

E. Abandonment or discontinuance of use.

- (1) A special permit shall lapse if not exercised within one year of issuance.
- (2) A marijuana establishment shall be required to remove all personal property, including but not limited to all material, plants, equipment, accessories, paraphernalia, and any other property no later than the earliest of:
  - (a) Prior to surrendering its state-issued licenses or permits; or
  - (b) Within six months of ceasing operations.

# CITY OF GARDNER

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Manca Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 201 Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

Phone: (978) 630-4014 ♦ Fax: (978) 632-1905 ♦ CDBG (978) 632-3800

11112



December 14, 2023

President Elizabeth J. Kazinskas  
c/o Titi Sirphan, City Clerk  
City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

RECEIVED  
2023 DEC 14 PM 3:57  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

Subject: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning," to Add "Sports Betting" to the Zoning Table of Uses. (Submitted by Councilor Dana Heath)

Dear President Kazinskas:

At the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, the Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend the City Council approve and adopt the requested Zoning Amendment as referenced above. In addition, the Planning Board recommends to amend the Table of Uses by replacing Permitted by right (P) with Special Permit Planning Board (SPPB) in each of the relevant columns. The Planning Board also voted to hold Joint Public Hearing with the City Council.

Please do not hesitate to contact Trevor M. Beauregard, Director of Community Development and Planning if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron  
Chairman

Cc: Mayor  
Planning Board  
City Council  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Thomas Zuppa, Building Commissioner



**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 675 THEREOF, ENTITLED "ZONING," TO ADD "SPORTS BETTING" TO THE ZONING TABLE OF USES.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1:** That Section 210(B) of Chapter 675, entitled "Word Usage and Definitions," be amended by adding the following definition to its list:

Sports Betting Facility – An entity licensed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission under the provisions of Chapter 173 of the Acts of 2022 of the General Laws to conduct sporting and wagering events.

**SECTION 2:** That Section 54 of Attachment 1 of Chapter 675 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled "Zoning- Table of Uses," be adding the term "Sports Betting Facility" to the description of use as follows:

54. Indoor amusement, fitness, or recreational place or place of assembly, provided that the building is so insulated and maintained as to confine noise to the premises and is located not less than 100 feet from a residential district, or a sports betting facility.

**SECTION 2:** That Section 56 of Attachment 1 of Chapter 675 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled "Zoning- Table of Uses," be adding the term "Sports Betting Facility" to the description of use as follows:

56. Public or commercial outdoor amusement or recreation use, or a sports betting facility, but not including outdoor drive-in movie theater.

**SECTION 3:** This this ordinance take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

# CITY OF GARDNER

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
March 30, 2023



Elizabeth Kazinskas, Council President  
C/o Titi Sirphan, City Clerk  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: **Petition 10892** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses.

Dear President Kazinskas:

At its meeting on March 22, 2023, the Planning Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to recommend approving the proposed zoning amendment referenced above based on the information provided to them by the petitioner.

If the proposed amendment is approved, the Planning Board recommends the rewording of number 54 to read:

*Indoor amusement, fitness, recreational place, place of assembly, or a sports betting facility, provided that the building is so insulated and maintained as to confine noise to the premises and is located not less than 100 feet from a residential district.*

In addition, due to the potential significant scope and complexity of such a project if implemented under this proposed zoning amendment, the Board recommends changing the use table for number 54 from permitted by right (P) to Special Permit Planning Board (SPPB) for Commercial 1 and Commercial 2 zones; and number 56 from permitted by right (P) to Special Permit Planning Board (SPPB) for Commercial 2 and Industrial 1 zones.

The Planning Board looks forward to joining the City Council at the joint public hearing scheduled on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Trevor Beauregard if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron, Planning Board Chairman

C: Mayor Michael J. Nicholson  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Richard Hanks, Interim Building Commissioner

City Hall Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 201, Gardner, Massachusetts 01440  
Telephone: (978) 630-4011 ♦ Facsimile: (978) 632-1905 ♦ CDBG (978) 632-3800



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

RECEIVED  
2023 MAR 29 PM 1:21  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 29, 2023

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

RE: Item #: 10892 - Planning Board Follow Up

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

At the Planning Board Meeting of March 22, 2023, the Planning Board recommended changing the proposal from a permitted use ("P") in the table to a use requiring a special permit ("SP").

The Administration is more than acceptable to this proposal and would be amenable to it being made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner



# City of Gardner - Executive Department

Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

RECEIVED

2023 MAR 29 PM 1:21

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 15, 2023

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

Mr. Mark Schafron, Chair  
And Planning Board Members  
Gardner City Hall, Manca Annex, Rm 201  
115 Pleasant St  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: Joint Public Hearing Written Testimony – Item #10892: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675, thereof entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

I am writing in favor of the Administration’s proposed Zoning Amendment to add the term “Sports Betting,” to line items 54 and 56 the Zoning Table of Uses.

In May of 2018, the United States Supreme Court struck down the federal Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (“PASPA”)<sup>1</sup>, also known as the Bradley Act, as unconstitutional in their ruling of *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*<sup>2</sup>. This federal statute had effectively outlawed sports betting nationwide, except for a few excluded states. The Supreme Court had ruled this act as unconstitutional, thus paving the way for several states to legalize sports betting.

In August of 2023, former Governor Charlie Baker signed House Bill 5164 into law, legalizing online, retail, and kiosk sports betting in the Commonwealth for residents ages 21 and older. Retail sports betting went live on January 31, 2023, and online sports betting launched on March 10, 2023. Kiosk sports betting will go live later this year.

There are currently three (3) approved retail sites and ten (10) approved mobile betting applications. When kiosk sports betting goes live later this year, they will be allowed across the Commonwealth in locations that follow a specific procedure as outlined by the new law.

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled on several occasions, that under the First Amendment of the Constitution, a municipality cannot outright ban a particular industry or business from opening within its borders, but can limit where these businesses are located.

Since the City cannot bar this type of business from opening in Gardner, and since this type of activity is not currently listed in the City’s Zoning Table of Uses, it leaves the City open to

<sup>1</sup> 28 U.S.C. ch.178 §3701 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> *Murphy v. NCAA*, 138 S.Ct. 1461 (2018).

liability of not being able to control whether these types of facility are located in largely residential neighborhoods or in areas in the City that may not be suited for this type of activity.

As such, it is the request of my Administration that this use be added to the City Code's Zoning table of uses under Line 54: Indoor Amusement, and Line 56: Outdoor Amusement, as these items fit the closest to the realm of sports betting.

This amendment to the Zoning Table of Uses, does not waive the other requirements these locations would have to go through should any sports betting facility open in Gardner in the future.

Per the requirements of the sports betting enabling legislation, any sports betting facility would have to enter into a Host Community Agreement ("HCA") similar to cannabis facilities in the Commonwealth. The Expanded Gaming Act requires that all applicants for sports betting licenses must first submit to the Massachusetts Gaming commission:

"a signed agreement between the host community and the applicant setting forth the conditions to have a gaming establishment located within the host community; provided, however, that the agreement shall include a community impact fee for the host community and all stipulations of responsibilities between the host community and the applicant, including stipulations of known impacts from the development and operation of a gaming establishment."

Additionally, after the HCA is approved by the City Council and signed by the Mayor, the City Council must then annually vote to allow the proposed establishment to operate a sports betting facility within the City at its location.

Lastly, before any facility should open, they must also go through the regular requirements for site plan approval and Development Review Committee vetting, both listed in Chapter §675-1010 of the City Code.

As such, this action to add this type of use to the Zoning Ordinances still requires this type of industry to be heavily regulated and vetted by the City by both branches of its government and its boards and commissions.

This action is simply being put forward to protect the City in the long run and pre-plan should one of these facilities come to Gardner rather than waiting and reacting if this should ever come up.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Nicholson", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner





**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440  
\*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING, continued

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

- **10891** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 Thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Change the Classification of Certain Parcels of Land Along Route 140.
- **10892** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses.
- **10893** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner

Information regarding this amendment is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP), or on the City’s webpage – [www.gardner-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov).

All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

*Titi Siriphan*  
Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk



**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440  
\*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

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All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk





**City of Gardner - *Executive Department***

**Mayor Michael J. Nicholson**

February 3, 2023

Hon. Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, Council President

And City Councilors

Gardner City Hall, Rm 121

95 Pleasant St

Gardner, MA 01440

RE: Zoning Ordinance Proposal- Sports Betting Facilities

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

As you are likely aware, on August 10, 2022, former Governor Charlie Baker signed Chapter 173 of the Acts of 2022 into law, legalizing sports betting in the Commonwealth.

This new addition to the General Laws, some parts of which have already taken effect while others will within the next few months, allows for the opening of new facilities across the Commonwealth where individuals can gamble and place wagers on sporting games.

Currently, these types of facilities are not governed by our zoning ordinance, as they were not allowed prior to the passage of this act. The attached ordinance proposal is being presented to help protect the City so that we can regulate where facilities like this can go and make sure that in the event that a facility like this looks to open in Gardner, it locates in a location that fits this use rather than in a largely residential area that could cause disruptions to a neighborhood.

I believe it is in the best interest of the City to be proactive in this matter in order to make sure the City has the tools in place before any situations may arise.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael J. Nicholson", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

CC:

City Council Public Welfare Committee  
Planning Board



## CITY OF GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 Main Street  
Gardner, Massachusetts 01440  
Phone: (978) 632-5600  
Fax: (978) 632-9045



Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police

Nicholas P. Maroni  
Deputy Chief of Police

February 3, 2023

The Honorable Michael J. Nicholson, Mayor  
Gardner City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street  
Gardner, MA 01440

Re: Sports Betting Zoning Ordinance

Dear Mayor,

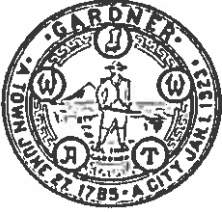
I have reviewed the proposed addition of the new Sports Betting Ordinance and do not see any issues from the police department. Any proposed facility should have a buffer between any residential zone and this ordinance reflects the new law.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CPA" or similar, written over a horizontal line.

Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police



**City of Gardner**  
**Department of Inspectional Services**  
**115 Pleasant Street, Room 101**  
**Gardner, MA 01440**  
Tel. (978) 630-4007 Fax: (978) 632-3313

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Feb. 7, 2023

RE: Text Amendment

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please accept this letter as my full support for your proposed text amendment to our Zoning Ordinance regarding sports betting. I believe when new laws are enacted at a state level that a municipalities Zoning must change to reflect the new law, or be forced to react to a potential problem.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further assistance.

Roland Jean  
Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer  
City Hall Annex  
115 Pleasant St. RM 101  
Gardner, MA 01440  
(978) 630 4007  
rjean@gardner-ma.gov

**Mission Statement**

To promote the safe and compatible development of the community through fair and consistent enforcement of building codes and zoning ordinances

*Current Ordinance*

GARDNER CODE

Description of Use	SFR1	RR2	GR3	COM1	COM2		IND1	IND2
					P	SP		
49. Restaurant	NP	SP	NP	P	P		P	NP
50. Restaurant, fast-food, including appurtenant structures to provide drive-through or drive-in services	NP	NP	NP	SP	SP		NP	NP
51. Restaurant serving food or beverages with live or mechanical entertainment	NP	SP	NP	SP	P		NP	NP
52. Wholesale office or showroom, with storage limited to floor samples only	NP	NP	NP	P	P		P	P
53. Wholesale office or showroom with storage permitted on property	NP	NP	NP	SP	P		P	P
54. Indoor amusement, fitness, or recreational place or place of assembly, provided that the building is so insulated and maintained as to confine noise to the premises and is located not less than 100 feet from a residential district	NP	NP	NP	P	P		NP	NP
55. Outdoor commercial clubs and/or recreational establishments or use such as swimming pools, tennis courts, ski clubs, camping areas, skating rinks or other commercial facilities offering outdoor recreation	NP	SP	NP	P	P		NP	NP
56. Public or commercial outdoor amusement or recreation use but not including outdoor drive-in movie theater	NP	NP	NP	NP	P		P	NP
57. Bus station or terminal or railroad station for passengers	NP	NP	NP	P	P		P	NP
58. Transport terminal, warehouse distribution facility	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP		P	P
59. Contracting business and contractor's yard, including storage in the open'	NP	NP	NP	NP	SP		P	NP

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 5164

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches with reference to the Senate amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2862) of the House Bill regulating sports wagering (House, No. 3993), reports recommending passage of the accompanying bill (House, No. 5164). August 1, 2022.

Jerald A. Parisella	Michael J. Rodrigues
Aaron Michlewitz	Eric P. Lesser
David K. Muradian	Patrick M. O'Connor

FILED ON: 8/1/2022

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 5164****The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court**  
**(2021-2022)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

An Act regulating sports wagering.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
 2 out clause Tenth, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the  
 3 following clause:-

4           Tenth, "Illegal gaming", a banking or percentage game played with cards, dice, tiles,  
 5 dominoes, or an electronic, electrical or mechanical device or machine for money, property,  
 6 checks, credit or any representative of value, but excluding: (i) a lottery game conducted by the  
 7 state lottery commission under sections 24, 24A and 27 of chapter 10; (ii) a game conducted  
 8 under chapter 23K; (iii) sports wagering conducted under chapter 23N; (iv) pari-mutuel wagering  
 9 on horse races under chapters 128A and 128C and greyhound races under said chapter 128C; (v)  
 10 a game of bingo conducted under chapter 271; (vi) charitable gaming conducted under said  
 11 chapter 271; and (vii) a fantasy contest conducted under section 11M½.

12           SECTION 2. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
 13 out clause Tenth, as inserted by section 1, and inserting in place thereof the following clause:-

Tenth, "Illegal gaming", a banking or percentage game played with cards, dice, tiles, dominoes, or an electronic, electrical or mechanical device or machine for money, property, checks, credit or any representative of value, but excluding: (i) a lottery game conducted by the state lottery commission under sections 24, 24A and 27 of chapter 10; (ii) a game conducted under chapter 23K; (iii) sports wagering conducted under chapter 23N; (iv) pari-mutuel wagering on horse races under chapters 128A and 128C; (v) a game of bingo conducted under chapter 271; and (vi) charitable gaming conducted under said chapter 271.

SECTION 3. Chapter 12 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 11M the following section:-

Section 11M½. Notwithstanding sections 24, 24A and 27 of chapter 10, chapter 271 or any other general or special law to the contrary, a person or entity that offers fantasy contests for a cash prize to members of the public may offer a fantasy contest to residents of the commonwealth pursuant to and in accordance with regulations promulgated by the attorney general; provided further, for the purposes of section 7 of chapter 4, a fantasy contest shall not be considered illegal gaming. "Fantasy contest" includes any fantasy or simulated game or contest, including, but not limited to, any fantasy or simulated game or contest based on professional sports events in which: (i) the value of all prizes and awards offered to winning participants are established and made known to the participants in advance of the contest; (ii) all winning outcomes reflect the relative knowledge and skill of the participants and shall be determined predominantly by accumulated statistical results of the performance of individuals, including athletes in the case of sports events; and (iii) no winning outcome is based on the score, point spread, or any performance or performances of any single actual team or combination of such



36 teams or solely on any single performance of an individual athlete or player in any single actual  
37 event.

38 SECTION 4. Section 4 of chapter 23K of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
39 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following subsection:-

40 (42) regulate and enforce chapter 23N relating to sports wagering.

41 SECTION 5. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 23M the  
42 following chapter:-

43 CHAPTER 23N

44 AUTHORIZATION AND REGULATION OF SPORTS WAGERING

45 Section 1. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Massachusetts Sports  
46 Wagering Act".

47 Section 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the operation of  
48 sports wagering and ancillary activities shall be lawful when conducted in accordance with this  
49 chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission.

50 Section 3. As used in this chapter the following words shall, unless the context clearly  
51 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

52 "Adjusted gross fantasy wagering receipts", the total gross receipts from fantasy contests  
53 as defined in section 11M1/2 of chapter 12, less only the total of all cash prizes paid to  
54 participants in the fantasy contests; provided, however, that the total of all cash prizes paid to

55 participants shall not include the cash equivalent of any merchandise or thing of value awarded  
56 as a prize.

57 “Adjusted gross sports wagering receipts”, the total gross receipts from sports wagering  
58 less the sum of: (i) the total of all winnings paid to participants; and (ii) all excise taxes paid  
59 pursuant to federal law; provided, however, that the total of all winnings paid to participants  
60 shall not include the cash equivalent of any merchandise or thing of value awarded as a prize.

61 “Affiliate”, a person who directly or indirectly controls, or is controlled by, or is under  
62 common control with, a specified person.

63 “Applicant”, a person who has applied for a license to engage in activity regulated under  
64 this chapter.

65 “Breaks”, the odd cents over any multiple of 10 cents of winnings per \$1 wagered.

66 “Category 1 license”, a license issued by the commission that permits the operation of  
67 sports wagering in person at a gaming establishment, as defined in section 2 of chapter 23K, and  
68 through not more than 2 individually-branded mobile applications or other digital platforms  
69 approved by the commission; provided, that the mobile applications or other digital platforms  
70 shall be qualified for and issued a category 3 license.

71 “Category 2 license”, a license issued by the commission that permits the operation of  
72 sports wagering in-person on the premises where either: (1) live horse racing is conducted in  
73 accordance with chapter 128A or (2) the licensee is authorized by law to conduct simulcast  
74 wagering on horse or greyhound racing, and through not more than 1 individually branded  
75 mobile application or other digital platform approved by the commission; provided, that the

76 mobile applications or other digital platforms shall be qualified for and issued a category 3  
77 license; provided further, that the commission may issue a category 2 license to: (1) a person or  
78 entity licensed by the commission in accordance with said chapter 128A to conduct a live horse  
79 racing meeting, (2) a running horse racing licensee that conducted simulcast wagering as of  
80 December 31, 2020 as authorized by law, or (3) a greyhound meeting licensee that conducted  
81 simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020 as authorized by law; provided further, a category 2  
82 licensee shall make a capital investment of not less than \$7,500,000 within 3 years after  
83 receiving a sports wagering license.

84 “Category 3 license”, a license issued by the commission that permits the operation of  
85 sports wagering through a mobile application and other digital platforms approved by the  
86 commission.

87 “Close associate”, a person who holds a relevant financial interest in, or is entitled to  
88 exercise power in, the business of an applicant or licensee and, by virtue of that interest or  
89 power, is able to exercise a significant influence over the management or operation of a gaming  
90 establishment or business licensed under this chapter.

91 “Collegiate sport or athletic event”, a sport or athletic event offered or sponsored by, or  
92 played in connection with, a public or private institution that offers educational services beyond  
93 the secondary level.

94 “Collegiate tournament”, a series of collegiate sports or athletic events involving four or  
95 more collegiate teams that make up a single unit of competition.

96 “Commission”, the Massachusetts gaming commission established in section 3 of chapter  
97 23K.

98           “Electronic sports”, a single or multiplayer video game played competitively for  
99   spectators.

100          “Governmental authority”, any governmental unit of a national, state or local body  
101   exercising governmental functions, except the United States government.

102          “License”, any license applied for or issued by the commission under this chapter,  
103   including, but not limited to: (i) an operator license or (ii) an occupational license.

104          “National criminal history background check”, a criminal history background check  
105   conducted using the criminal history record system maintained by the Federal Bureau of  
106   Investigation and based on fingerprint identification or any other method of positive  
107   identification.

108          “Occupational license”, a license required to be held by an employee of an operator when  
109   the employee performs duties directly related to the operation of sports wagering in the  
110   commonwealth in a supervisory role.

111          “Official league data”, statistics, results, outcomes and other data relating to a sporting  
112   event that is obtained pursuant to an agreement with the relevant sports governing body, or with  
113   an entity expressly authorized by the relevant sports governing body to provide such data to  
114   sports wagering operators, which authorizes the use of such data for determining the outcome of  
115   tier 2 sports wagers on such sporting event.

116          “Operator” or “sports wagering operator”, any entity permitted under this chapter to offer  
117   sports wagering to persons in the commonwealth through a category 1 license, category 2 license  
118   or category 3 license.

119           “Operator license”, a category 1 license, category 2 license or category 3 license to  
120   operate sports wagering.

121           “Person”, an individual, corporation, association, operation, firm, partnership, trust or  
122   other form of business association.

123           “Personal biometric data”, any information about an athlete that is derived from that  
124   athlete’s physical or physiological characteristics, including, but not limited to, deoxyribonucleic  
125   acid, heart rate, blood pressure, perspiration rate, internal or external body temperature, hormone  
126   levels, glucose levels, hydration levels, vitamin levels, bone density, muscle density or sleep  
127   patterns.

128           “Players association”, a professional sports association recognized by a sports governing  
129   body that represents professional athletes.

130           “Professional sport or athletic event”, an event at which 2 or more persons participate in a  
131   sport or athletic event and receive compensation in excess of actual expenses for their  
132   participation in such event.

133           “Promotional gaming credit”, a sports wagering credit or other item issued by an operator  
134   to a patron to enable the placement of a sports wager.

135           “Qualified gaming entity”, an entity that: (i) holds a gaming license as defined in section  
136   2 of chapter 23K; (ii) (a) is licensed by the commission in accordance with chapter 128A to  
137   conduct a live horse racing meeting, (b) is a running horse racing licensee that conducted  
138   simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020 as authorized by law or (c) is a greyhound meeting  
139   licensee that conducted simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020 as authorized by law; or

(iii) offers an interactive sports wagering platform through a mobile application or other digital platform.

“Sports event” or “sporting event”, a professional sport or athletic event, collegiate sport or athletic event, a collegiate tournament, motor race event, electronic sports event or other event authorized by the commission under this chapter; provided, however, that “sporting event” shall not include: (i) high school and youth sports or athletic events; or (ii) a collegiate sport or athletic event involving 1 or more collegiate teams from the commonwealth unless they are involved in a collegiate tournament.

“Sports governing body”, an organization that is headquartered in the United States and prescribes final rules and enforces codes of conduct with respect to a sporting event and participants therein; provided, however, that, notwithstanding the foregoing, the commission shall adopt regulations to determine the governing body for electronic sports for the purposes of this chapter.

“Sports wager”, a wager on a sporting event or a portion of a sporting event.

“Sports wagering”, the business of accepting wagers on sporting events or portions of sporting events, other events, the individual performance statistics of athletes in a sporting event or other events or a combination of any of the same by any system or method of wagering approved by the commission including, but not limited to, mobile applications and other digital platforms; provided, that sports wagering shall not include the acceptance of any wager: (i) with an outcome dependent on the performance of an individual athlete in any collegiate sport or athletic event, including, but not limited, to in-game or in-play wagers; (ii) on a high school or youth sporting event; (iii) on injuries, penalties, player discipline or replay review; and provided

further, that sports wagering shall not include fantasy contests as defined in section 11M½ of chapter 12. Sports wagering shall include, but shall not be limited to, single-game bets, teaser bets, parlays, over-under, moneyline, pools, exchange wagering, in-game wagering, in-play bets, proposition bets and straight bets.

“Sports wagering account”, a financial record established by an operator for a patron in which the patron may deposit by any method approved by the commission and withdraw funds for sports wagering and other authorized purchases and to which the operator may credit winnings or other amounts due to or authorized by that patron; provided, however, that such account may be established and funded by the patron electronically through an approved mobile application or digital platform; and provided further, that a deposit into a sports wagering account shall not be made using a credit card.

“Tier 1 sports wager”, a sports wager that is determined solely by the final score or outcome of a sporting event and is placed before the sporting event has begun.

“Tier 2 sports wager”, a sports wager that is not a tier 1 sports wager.

“Wager”, a sum of money or thing of value risked on an uncertain occurrence.

Section 4. (a) The commission shall regulate the conduct of sports wagering under this chapter.

(b) The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation, administration and enforcement of this chapter. The commission may promulgate emergency rules and regulations in accordance with applicable procedures for the promulgation of emergency rules and regulations.



(c) The commission shall promulgate regulations to prohibit: (i) the purchase or other use of any personal biometric data of an athlete for sports wagering or aiding a patron in placing a wager with sports wagering operators; and (ii) the following advertising, marketing and branding activities: (A) advertisements, marketing and branding in such a manner that it is deceptive, false, misleading, or untrue, or tends to deceive or create a misleading impression whether directly, or by ambiguity or omission; (B) use of unsolicited pop-up advertisements on the internet or by text message directed to an individual on the list of self-excluded persons established pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of section 13; (C) any form of advertising, marketing or branding that the commission deems unacceptable or disruptive to the viewer experience at a sports event; (D) advertising, marketing and branding deemed to appeal directly to a person younger than 21 years old; and (E) advertising on any billboards, or any other public signage, which fails to comply with any federal, state or local law.

(d)(1) The commission may promulgate rules and regulations including, but not limited to, those governing the acceptance of wagers on a sports event, other event or a series of sports events; types of wagering receipts which may be used; methods of issuing receipts; methods of accounting to be used by operators; types of records to be kept; types of systems for wagering; and any other sports wagering-related issues.

(2) The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations regarding protections for patrons placing wagers and the promotion of social responsibility and responsible gaming that shall include, but not be limited to, a requirement that an operator: (i) implement responsible gaming programs that include comprehensive employee trainings on responding to circumstances in which individuals present signs of gambling addiction; (ii) assess, prevent and address problem gaming by an operator's consumers; (iii) permit a consumer to permanently

close an account registered to the consumer on any or all platforms owned or operated by the operator at any time and for any reason; (iv) offer consumers access to their account history and account details; (v) refrain from making claims as to a consumer's winnings or money earned that is not net of wagers placed; (vi) allow a consumer to withdraw funds without further solicitation or promotion in the manner in which the funds were deposited; (vii) annually submit a problem gaming plan for approval by the commission, in consultation with the department of public health, that includes the objectives of and timetables for implementing the plan, identification of the persons responsible for implementing and maintaining the plan, procedures for identifying consumers with suspected or known problem gaming behavior, procedures for providing information to consumers concerning problem gaming identification and resources, procedures to prevent gaming by minors and self-excluded persons and any other information the commission may require; and (viii) shall not offer or provide a line of credit to any consumer.

(3) The commission shall promulgate regulations that require mobile applications and digital platforms authorized for sports wagering to prominently display upon each entry into the application or platform the telephone number and website for a problem gambling hotline overseen by the department of public health.

(e) The commission shall: (i) determine the eligibility of a person to hold or continue to hold a license; (ii) issue all licenses; and (iii) maintain a record of all licenses issued under this chapter.

(f) The commission shall levy and collect all fees, surcharges, civil penalties and taxes on adjusted gross sports wagering receipts imposed by this chapter, except as otherwise provided under this chapter.

228 (g) The commission shall have the authority to enforce this chapter and any rule or  
229 regulation of the commission and may request that the attorney general bring an action to enforce  
230 this chapter or any rule or regulation of the commission by civil action or petition for injunctive  
231 relief.

232 (h) The commission may hold hearings, administer oaths and issue subpoenas or  
233 subpoenas duces tecum in order to enforce this chapter and the rules and regulations of the  
234 commission.

235 (i) The commission may exercise any other powers necessary to effectuate this chapter  
236 and the rules and regulations of the commission.

237 Section 5. (a) A person shall not engage in any activity in connection with sports  
238 wagering in the commonwealth unless all required licenses have been obtained in accordance  
239 with this chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission.

240 (b) The commission shall not grant an operator license until it determines that each  
241 person who has control of the applicant meets all qualifications for licensure. For the purposes of  
242 this chapter, the following shall be considered to have control of an applicant: (i) a person who  
243 owns 10 per cent or more of a corporate applicant and who has the ability to control the activities  
244 of the corporate applicant; provided, however, that a bank or other licensed lending institution  
245 that holds a mortgage or other lien acquired in the ordinary course of business shall not be  
246 considered to have control of an applicant; (ii) a person who holds a beneficial or proprietary  
247 interest of 10 per cent or more of a non-corporate applicant's business operation and who has the  
248 ability to control the activities of the non-corporate applicant; and (iii) at the commission's

discretion, an executive, employee or agent having the power to exercise significant influence over decisions concerning the applicant's sports wagering operations in the commonwealth.

(c) A person having control of an applicant pursuant to subsection (b) shall submit to the commission an application in a form determined by the commission. Each such person who is a natural person shall also submit to the commission: (i) fingerprints for a national criminal records check by the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and (ii) a signed authorization for the release of the person's information by the department of state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; provided, however, that a person having control of an applicant who is a natural person that has submitted to a national criminal records check in any jurisdiction within the previous year shall not be required to submit to another national criminal records check if such person submits to the commission the results of such previous national criminal records check. Any applicant convicted of any disqualifying offense, as determined by the commission, shall not be licensed.

(d) Each person licensed under this chapter shall give the commission written notice not more than 30 days after any change to any material information provided in the application for a license or renewal.

(e) A commission employee shall not be an applicant for any license issued under this chapter.

Section 6. (a) A licensed qualified gaming entity may operate sports wagering upon the approval of the commission.

(b)(1) The commission shall issue a category 1 license to any holder of a gaming license, as defined in section 2 of chapter 23K, that meets the requirements of this chapter and the rules

271 and regulations of the commission; provided, however, that any holder of a category 1 license  
272 shall not be issued a category 2 license.

273 (2) The commission shall issue a category 2 license to: (i) any holder of a license to  
274 conduct a live horse racing meeting in accordance with chapter 128A; (ii) a running horse racing  
275 licensee that conducted simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020 as authorized by law; or  
276 (iii) a greyhound meeting licensee that conducted simulcast wagering as of December 31, 2020  
277 as authorized by law; that meets the requirements of this chapter and the rules and regulations of  
278 the commission; provided, however, that any holder of a category 2 license shall not be issued a  
279 category 1 license; and provided further, that no more than 1 category 2 license shall be issued to  
280 any 1 person, entity, or affiliate or close associate of such person or entity.

281 (3) The commission may issue a category 3 license to any entity that offers sports  
282 wagering through a mobile application or other digital platform that meets the requirements of  
283 this chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission; provided, however, the commission  
284 shall issue no more than 7 category 3 licenses that are not connected to a category 1 or category  
285 2 license.

286 (4) A category 1 or category 2 licensee may enter into agreements related to mobile or  
287 digital sports wagering with a category 3 licensee pursuant to the approval of the commission.  
288 Nothing in this chapter shall require a category 3 licensee to partner with or have any  
289 commercial relationship with a category 1 or 2 licensee.

290 (c)(1) A qualified gaming entity may submit to the commission a request for a temporary  
291 license for the immediate commencement of sports wagering operations. Such request shall  
292 include an initial licensing fee of \$1,000,000 payable to the commission.

293 (2) Upon receiving a request for a temporary license, the executive director of the  
294 commission shall review the request. If the executive director determines that the entity  
295 requesting the temporary license is a qualified gaming entity and has paid the sports wagering  
296 initial licensing fee pursuant to paragraph (1), the commission shall authorize the qualified  
297 gaming entity to conduct sports wagering for a period of 1 year under a temporary license or  
298 until a final determination on its operator license application is made.

299 (3) All sports wagering conducted under authority of a temporary license shall comply  
300 with the house rules adopted under section 10.

301 (d) Prior to issuing an operator license, the commission shall commence an investigation  
302 into the suitability of the applicant. The commission may use information obtained from the  
303 applicant pursuant to chapter 23K, chapter 128A, chapter 128C, or information from other  
304 jurisdictions where the applicant is authorized to conduct sports wagering. In evaluating the  
305 suitability of the applicant, the commission shall consider the overall reputation of the applicant  
306 including, but not limited to: (i) the integrity, honesty, good character and reputation of the  
307 applicant; (ii) the financial stability, integrity and background of the applicant; (iii) the business  
308 practices and the business ability of the applicant to establish and maintain a successful sports  
309 wagering operation; (iv) whether the applicant has a history of compliance with gaming or sports  
310 wagering licensing requirements in other jurisdictions; (v) whether the applicant, at the time of  
311 application, is a defendant in litigation involving its business practices; and (vi) the suitability of  
312 all parties in interest to the license, including affiliates and close associates, and the financial  
313 resources of the applicant.

314 (c) The commission may deny an application, if the commission determines during its  
315 investigation that an applicant has failed to: (i) establish the applicant's integrity or the integrity  
316 of any affiliate, close associate, financial resources or any person required to be qualified by the  
317 commission; (ii) demonstrate responsible business practices in any jurisdiction; or (iii) overcome  
318 any other reason, as determined by the commission, as to why it would be injurious to the  
319 interests of the commonwealth to award the applicant an operator license.

320 (f) Upon application by a qualified gaming entity that is not denied pursuant to subsection  
321 (e) and payment of a \$5,000,000 licensing fee, the commission shall grant an operator license to  
322 a qualified gaming entity that provides the right to conduct sports wagering; provided, that the  
323 qualified gaming entity shall meet the requirements for licensure under this chapter and the rules  
324 and regulations of the commission. Such license shall be issued for a 5-year period, and may be  
325 renewed for 5-year periods upon payment of a \$5,000,000 renewal fee; provided, that the  
326 operator shall continue to meet all requirements under this chapter and the rules and regulations  
327 of the commission. The commission shall credit any initial licensing fee paid pursuant to  
328 paragraph (1) of subsection (c) to a successful applicant for an operator license against the  
329 licensing fee due under this subsection.

330 (g) An operator shall submit to the commission such documentation or information as the  
331 commission may require to demonstrate that the operator continues to meet the requirements of  
332 this chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission. An operator shall submit required  
333 documentation or information no later than 5 years after issuance of its operator license and  
334 every 5 years thereafter, or within lesser periods based on circumstances specified by the  
335 commission.



(h) No licensee shall transfer an operator license, or any direct or indirect interest in the license, without the majority approval of the commission. A person seeking to acquire such license through a transfer shall qualify and otherwise be determined by the commission to be eligible for licensure under this chapter. The commission may reject a proposed license transfer or a proposed transfer of interest in the license to an unsuitable person and may reject a proposed transfer that, in the determination of the commission, would be injurious to the interests of the commonwealth. The commission may promulgate regulations governing this process which may include assessment of a fee to reflect the cost associated with reviewing the proposed transfer.

(i) Applications for operator licenses shall be public records under section 10 of chapter 66; provided however, that trade secrets, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of an application for an operator license under this chapter, the disclosure of which would place the applicant at a competitive disadvantage, may be withheld from disclosure under said section 10 of said chapter 66.

Section 7. (a) An applicant for an operator license shall pay to the commission a nonrefundable processing fee of \$200,000 for the costs associated with the processing of the application and investigation of the applicant; provided, however, that if the costs of the investigation exceed the initial application fee, the applicant shall pay the additional amount to the commission not more than 30 days after notification of insufficient fees or the application shall be rejected.

(b) All fees in this section shall be deposited into the Sports Wagering Control Fund established in section 14.

357           Section 8. Section 8. (a) All persons employed by an operator to perform duties directly  
358 related to the operation of sports wagering in the commonwealth in a supervisory role shall  
359 maintain a valid occupational license issued by the commission. The commission shall issue such  
360 occupational license to a person who meets the requirements of this section.

361           (b) An occupational license authorizes the licensee to be employed in the capacity  
362 designated by the commission while the license is active. The commission may establish, by rule  
363 or regulation, job classifications with different requirements based on the extent to which a  
364 particular job impacts, or has the potential to impact, the lawful operation of sports wagering.

365           (c) An applicant for an occupational license shall submit any required application forms  
366 established by the commission and shall pay a nonrefundable application fee of \$100. An  
367 employer may pay an application fee on behalf of an applicant.

368           (d) Not later than March 1 of the third calendar year following the issuance or renewal of  
369 an occupational license, an occupational license holder shall pay a nonrefundable license renewal  
370 fee of \$100 and submit a renewal application on a form established by the commission. An  
371 employer may pay the license renewal fee on behalf of the licensed employee.

372           Section 9. Section 9. (a) The commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand  
373 any licensee or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee: (i) has knowingly made a  
374 false statement of a material fact to the commission; (ii) has had a license revoked by any  
375 governmental authority responsible for regulation of gaming activities; (iii) has been convicted  
376 of a felony or other crime involving embezzlement, theft, fraud, perjury, or a gambling-related  
377 offense; (iv) has not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commission financial responsibility  
378 sufficient to adequately meet the requirements of the proposed enterprise; (v) has affiliates or

close associates that would not qualify for a license or whose relationship with the applicant may pose an injurious threat to the interests of the commonwealth in awarding an operator license to the applicant; or (vi) in the case of an operator or an applicant for an operator license, is not the true owner of the business or is not the sole owner and has not disclosed the existence or identity of other persons who have an ownership interest in the business.

(b) The commission may deny, suspend or revoke an operator license or reprimand any licensee if the applicant or licensee has not met the requirements of this chapter.

Section 10. (a) An operator shall adopt comprehensive house rules for game play governing sports wagering transactions with the operator's patrons. The house rules shall specify the amounts to be paid on winning wagers and the effect of sports event schedule changes. An operator shall not conduct sports wagering until the commission has approved the house rules and an operator shall not conduct sports wagering in a manner inconsistent with approved house rules.

(b) The house rules, together with any other information the commission deems appropriate, shall be accessible to any patrons of the sports wagering operator. The operator shall make copies readily available to patrons and shall post the house rules as required by the commission, including on a prominent place on the operator's public website and mobile application or other digital platform.

Section 11. (a) An operator shall employ commercially reasonable methods to: (i) prohibit the operator, directors, officers, owners and employees of the operator and any relative living in the same household as any such person from placing bets with the operator; (ii) prohibit athletes, coaches, referees, team owners, employees of a sports governing body or its member

401 teams and player and referee union personnel from wagering on any sporting event of their  
402 sport's governing body; provided, however, that the operator shall use lists of such persons that a  
403 sports governing body may provide to the commission to determine which persons are excluded  
404 from placing wagers under this subsection; and provided further, that the commission may use  
405 the list of barred employees from the operator and may work directly with a member team to  
406 determine the risk posed by certain employees for obtaining nonpublic confidential information  
407 on a sporting event and may remove an employee without knowledge of team strategy or game  
408 operations from such a list if the commission determines any such risk is de minimis; (iii)  
409 prohibit any individual with access to nonpublic confidential information held by the operator  
410 from placing wagers with the operator; (iv) prohibit persons from placing wagers as agents or  
411 proxies for others; and (v) maintain the security of wagering data, customer data and other  
412 confidential information from unauthorized access and dissemination; provided, however, that  
413 nothing in this chapter shall preclude the use of internet or cloud-based hosting of such data and  
414 information or disclosure as required by court order, other law or this chapter; and provided  
415 further, that such data and information shall be hosted in the United States.

416 (b) A sports governing body or players association representing athletes who participate  
417 in sporting events of the sports governing body may submit to the commission, in writing, by  
418 providing notice in a form and manner as the commission may require, a request to restrict, limit  
419 or exclude a certain type, form or category of sports wagering with respect to sporting events of  
420 the sports governing body, if the sports governing body or players association believes that such  
421 type, form or category of sports wagering with respect to sporting events of the sports governing  
422 body: (i) is contrary to public policy; (ii) unfair to consumers; (iii) may undermine the perceived  
423 integrity of the sports governing body, sporting events of the sports governing body or the

424 athletes participating therein; or (iv) affects the integrity of the sports governing body or sporting  
425 events of the sports governing body or the athletes participating therein.

426       The commission shall request comment from operators on all such requests. After giving  
427 due consideration to all comments received, the commission shall, upon a demonstration of good  
428 cause from the requestor, grant the request. The commission shall respond to a request  
429 concerning a particular event before the start of the event or, if it is not feasible to respond before  
430 the start of the event, not later than 7 days after the request is made; provided, however, that if  
431 the commission determines that the requestor is more likely than not to prevail in successfully  
432 demonstrating good cause for its request, the commission may provisionally grant the request  
433 until the commission makes a final determination as to whether the requestor has demonstrated  
434 good cause. Absent a provisional grant by the commission, an operator may continue to offer  
435 sports wagering on sporting events that are the subject of a request during the pendency of the  
436 consideration of the applicable request.

437       (c) The commission shall designate a state law enforcement entity to have primary  
438 responsibility for conducting, or assisting the commission in conducting, investigations into  
439 abnormal betting activity, match fixing and other conduct that corrupts a betting outcome of a  
440 sporting event for purposes of financial gain.

441       (d) The commission and operators shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate  
442 with investigations conducted by sports governing bodies or law enforcement agencies,  
443 including, but not limited to, using commercially reasonable efforts to provide or facilitate the  
444 provision of anonymized account-level betting information and audio or video files relating to  
445 persons placing wagers. All disclosures under this section are subject to the obligation of an

446 operator to comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations, including, but not  
447 limited to, laws and regulations relating to privacy and personally identifiable information.

448 (e) An operator shall immediately report to the commission any information relating to:  
449 (i) criminal or disciplinary proceedings commenced against the operator in connection with its  
450 operations; (ii) abnormal betting activity or patterns that may indicate a concern with the  
451 integrity of a sporting event; (iii) any potential breach of the internal rules and codes of conduct  
452 pertaining to sports wagering of a relevant sports governing body; (iv) any other conduct that  
453 corrupts a betting outcome of a sporting event for purposes of financial gain, including, but not  
454 limited to, match fixing; or (v) suspicious or illegal wagering activities, including, but not limited  
455 to: (A) use of funds derived from illegal activity; (B) wagers to conceal or launder funds derived  
456 from illegal activity; (C) use of agents to place wagers; and (D) use of false identification. An  
457 operator shall immediately report information relating to conduct described in clauses (ii), (iii)  
458 and (iv) of this subsection to the relevant sports governing body.

459 (f) The commission and operators shall maintain the confidentiality of information  
460 provided by a sports governing body for purposes of investigating or preventing the conduct  
461 described in clauses (ii), (iii) and (iv) of subsection (e), unless disclosure is required by this  
462 chapter, the commission, other law or court order or unless the sports governing body consents to  
463 disclosure.

464 (g) With respect to any information provided by an operator to a sports governing body  
465 relating to conduct described in clauses (ii), (iii) and (iv) of subsection (e), a sports governing  
466 body shall: (i) only use such information for integrity purposes and shall not use the information  
467 for any commercial or other purpose; and (ii) maintain the confidentiality of such information,

unless disclosure is required by this chapter, the commission, other law or court order or unless the operator consents to disclosure; provided, however, that the sports governing body may make any disclosure necessary to conduct and resolve integrity-related investigations and may publicly disclose such information if required by its integrity policies or if deemed by the sports governing body in its reasonable judgment to be necessary to maintain the actual or perceived integrity of its sporting events, and subject in all cases to the sports governing body's compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to privacy and personally identifiable information; and provided further, that prior to any such public disclosure that would identify the operator by name, the sports governing body shall provide the operator with notice of such disclosure and an opportunity to object to such disclosure.

(h) An operator shall maintain records of all wagers placed by its patrons, including: (i) personally identifiable information of a patron who places a sports wager through a mobile application or other digital platform or a patron who places an in-person sports wager that exceeds an amount determined by the commission; (ii) amount and type of the bet; (iii) the time the bet was placed; (iv) the location of the bet, including the Internet Protocol address if applicable; (v) the outcome of the bet; and (vi) records of abnormal betting activity for 3 years after a sporting event occurs and video camera recordings in the case of in-person wagers for at least 1 year after a sporting event occurs. An operator shall make these records available for inspection upon request of the commission or as required by court order.

(i) An operator shall use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain, in real time and at the account level, anonymized information for each patron, including: (i) the amount and type of bet; (ii) the time the bet was placed; (iii) the location of the bet, including the Internet Protocol

491 address if applicable; (iv) the outcome of the bet; and (v) records of abnormal betting activity.  
492 The commission may request the information in the form and manner as it requires. Nothing in  
493 this section shall require an operator to provide any information prohibited by federal, state or  
494 local laws or regulations, including, but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to privacy  
495 and personally identifiable information.

496 (j) If a sports governing body has notified the commission and demonstrated a need for  
497 access to the information described in subsection (i) for wagers placed on sporting events of the  
498 sports governing body for integrity monitoring purposes and demonstrated the capability to use  
499 the data for the purpose of effectively monitoring the integrity of sporting events of the sports  
500 governing body, an operator shall share, in a commercially reasonable frequency, form and  
501 manner, with the sports governing body or its designee the same information the operator is  
502 required to maintain pursuant to said subsection (i) with respect to sports wagers on sporting  
503 events of the sports governing body. A sports governing body and its designee shall only use  
504 information received pursuant to this section for integrity-monitoring purposes and shall not use  
505 information received pursuant to this section for any commercial or other purpose. Nothing in  
506 this section shall require an operator to provide any information that is prohibited by federal,  
507 state or local law or regulation, including, but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to  
508 privacy and personally identifiable information.

509 (k)(1) An operator shall conduct a background check on each newly hired employee.  
510 Background checks shall search for criminal history, charges or convictions involving corruption  
511 or manipulation of sporting events and association with organized crime.



(2) An operator shall conduct a single background check on any employee hired before the operator was issued an operator license. Background checks shall search for criminal history, charges or convictions involving corruption or manipulation of sporting events and association with organized crime.

Section 12. (a) An operator shall: (i) employ a monitoring system utilizing software to identify irregularities in volume or changes in odds that could signal suspicious activities and promptly report such information to the commission for further investigation; provided, however, that system requirements and specifications shall be developed according to industry standards and implemented by the commission as part of the minimum internal control standards; (ii) promptly report to the commission any facts or circumstances related to the operation of a sports wagering license that constitute a violation of state or federal law and promptly report to the appropriate state or federal authorities any suspicious betting over a threshold set by the operator that has been approved by the commission; (iii) conduct all sports wagering activities and functions in a manner that does not pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare of the residents of the commonwealth; (iv) keep current in all payments and obligations to the commission; (v) prevent any person from tampering or interfering with the operation of any sports wagering; (vi) ensure that mobile sports wagering occurs only using a commission-approved mobile application or other digital platform to accept wagers initiated within the commonwealth; (vii) maintain sufficient cash and other supplies to conduct sports wagering at all times; (viii) maintain daily records showing the gross sports wagering receipts and adjusted gross sports wagering receipts of the operator from sports wagering; (ix) timely file with the commission any additional reports required by this chapter or by any rule or regulation;

534 and (x) use commercially reasonable efforts to prevent a person under 21 years old from placing  
535 a wager.

536 (b) Sports wagering operators may use any data source for determining:

537 (1) the results of any and all tier 1 sports wagers on any and all sporting events; and

538 (2) the results of any and all tier 2 sports wagers on sporting events of an organization  
539 that is not headquartered in the United States.

540 (c) A sports governing body may notify the commission that it desires sports wagering  
541 operators to use official league data to settle tier 2 sports wagers on sporting events of such  
542 sports governing body. The notification shall be made in the form and manner as the commission  
543 may require. Within 5 days of receipt of the notification, the commission shall notify each sports  
544 wagering operator of the requirement to use official league data to settle tier 2 sports wagers. If a  
545 sports governing body does not notify the commission of its desire to supply official league data,  
546 a sports wagering operator may use any data source for determining the results of any and all tier  
547 2 sports wagers on sporting events of the sports governing body.

548 (d) Within 60 days of the commission notifying a sport wagering operator of the  
549 requirement to use official league data to settle tier 2 sports wagers pursuant to subsection (c), or  
550 such longer period as may be agreed between the sports governing body and the applicable  
551 sports wagering operator, a sports wagering operator shall use only official league data to  
552 determine the results of tier 2 sports wagers on sporting events of that sports governing body,  
553 unless:

554 (1) the sports governing body or its designee cannot provide a feed of official league data  
555 to determine the results of a particular type of tier 2 sports wager, in which case a sports  
556 wagering operator may use any data source for determining the results of the applicable tier 2  
557 sports wager until such time a data feed becomes available from the sports governing body on  
558 commercially reasonable terms and conditions; or

559 (2) a sports wagering operator can demonstrate to the commission that the sports  
560 governing body or its designee will not provide a feed of official league data to the sports  
561 wagering operator on commercially reasonable terms and conditions.

562 (e) In evaluating whether official league data is offered on commercially reasonable  
563 terms and conditions for purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d), the commission  
564 may consider factors, including, but not limited to:

565 (1) the availability of official league data to a sports wagering operator from more than 1  
566 authorized source;

567 (2) market information, including, but not limited to, price and other terms and conditions  
568 regarding the purchase by sports wagering operators of comparable data for the purpose of  
569 settling sports wagers in the commonwealth and other jurisdictions;

570 (3) the nature and quantity of data, including the quality and complexity of the process  
571 used for collecting the data; and

572 (4) the extent to which a sports governing body or its designee has made data used to  
573 settle tier 2 wagers available to sports wagering operators and any terms and conditions relating  
574 to the use of that data.

575 (f) Notwithstanding subsection (d) or any provision of this subsection to the contrary,  
576 during the pendency of the determination of the commission as to whether a sports governing  
577 body or its designee may provide official league data on commercially reasonable terms, a sports  
578 wagering operator may use any data source to determine the results of tier 2 sports wagers. The  
579 determination shall be made within 120 days of the sports wagering operator notifying the  
580 commission that it requests to demonstrate that the sports governing body or its designee will not  
581 provide a feed of official league data to the sports wagering operator on commercially reasonable  
582 terms.

583 (g) A sports governing body may enter into commercial agreements with a sports  
584 wagering operator or other entity in which such sports governing body may share in the amount  
585 wagered or revenues derived from sports wagering on sporting events of the sports governing  
586 body. A sports governing body shall not be required to obtain a license or any other approval  
587 from the commission to lawfully accept such amounts or revenues.

588 Section 13. (a) Holders of category 1 and category 2 licenses may accept wagers on  
589 sports events and other events authorized pursuant to this chapter in person at authorized  
590 facilities.

591 (b) Holders of an operator license may accept wagers on sports events and other events  
592 authorized pursuant to this chapter from individuals physically located within the commonwealth  
593 using mobile applications or digital platforms approved by the commission, through the patron's  
594 sports wagering account. The branding for each mobile application or digital platform shall be  
595 determined by the operator. All bets authorized pursuant to this section must be initiated,  
596 received and otherwise made within the commonwealth. Consistent with the intent of the federal

Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, 31 U.S.C. section 5361 to 5367, inclusive, the intermediate routing of electronic data related to a lawful intrastate wager authorized pursuant to this chapter shall not determine the location or locations in which the wager is initiated, received or otherwise made.

(c) An operator may: (i) accept wagers placed by other operators and (ii) place wagers with other operators; provided, that any operator that places a wager with another operator shall inform the operator accepting the wager that the wager is being placed by an operator and shall disclose the operator's identity.

(d) An operator shall not accept: (i) a wager from a person who is less than 21 years of age; or (ii) a credit card .

(e)(1) The commission or operator may ban any person from participating in the play or operation of any sports wagering consistent with rules and regulations promulgated by the commission. A list of all excluded patrons shall be kept by the commission and provided to each licensee. No patron on the exclusion list shall be permitted to conduct sports wagering pursuant to this chapter.

(2) The commission shall establish a list of self-excluded persons from sports wagering. A person may request their name to be placed on the list of self-excluded persons by filing a statement with the commission acknowledging that they are a problem gambler and by agreeing that, during any period of voluntary exclusion, they shall not collect any winnings or recover any losses resulting from any sports wagering. The commission shall adopt further regulations for the self-excluded persons list including procedures for placement, removal and transmittal of the list to sports wagering operators. The commission may revoke, limit, condition, suspend or fine a

619 sports wagering operator if the operator knowingly or recklessly fails to exclude or eject from its  
620 premises any person placed on the list of self-excluded persons. The list of self-excluded persons  
621 from sports wagering shall not be open to public inspection.

622 (3) An operator that operates sports wagering through a mobile application or other  
623 digital platform may allow patrons to set self-imposed limitations on sports wagering when the  
624 patron joins the mobile application or digital platform.

625 (f) No employee may place a sports wager at any facility or through any mobile  
626 application or digital platform owned or operated by their employer.

627 (g) Sections 24, 24A and 27 of chapter 10 of the General Laws shall not apply to an  
628 operator conducting sports wagering in accordance with this chapter.

629 (h) Unclaimed winning sports wagers shall be retained by the operator for the person  
630 entitled to the wager for 1 year after the game or event in which the wager was won. If no claim  
631 is made for the wager within 1 year, the cash or equivalent cash value of the wager shall be  
632 deposited in the Sports Wagering Control Fund established in section 15.

633 Section 14. (a) An excise is hereby imposed upon sports wagering operators in the  
634 commonwealth at the rate of: (i) 15 per cent of the operator's adjusted gross sports wagering  
635 receipts from the operation of in-person sports wagering; (ii) 20 per cent of the operator's  
636 adjusted gross sports wagering receipts from the operation of sports wagering through mobile  
637 applications and other digital platforms approved by the commission; and (iii) 15 per cent of the  
638 adjusted gross fantasy wagering receipts of a person or entity that offers fantasy contests, as  
639 defined in section 11M½. The accrual method of accounting shall be used for purposes of

calculating the amount of the tax owed by the licensee. The excise shall be paid to the commission at the time provided for filing the return pursuant to subsection (b).

(b)(1) The excise imposed and collected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be due and payable to the commission in monthly installments on or before the fifteenth calendar day following the calendar month in which the adjusted gross sports wagering receipts were received.

(2) On or before the fifteenth calendar day of each month, the operator shall complete and submit the return for the preceding month by electronic communication to the commission in a form prescribed by the commission that provides:

(i) the total gross sports wagering receipts and adjusted gross sports wagering receipts from operation of sports wagering during that month;

(ii) the total gross fantasy wagering receipts and adjusted gross fantasy wagering receipts from the offering of fantasy contests, as defined in section 11M½ of chapter 12, during that month;

(iii) the tax amount for which an operator or a person or entity that offers fantasy contests, as defined in said section 11M½ of said chapter 12, is liable; and

(iv) any additional information necessary in the computation and collection of the tax on adjusted gross sports wagering receipts and adjusted gross fantasy wagering receipts required by the commission.

(3) The excise amount shown to be due shall be remitted by electronic funds transfer simultaneously with the filing of the return.

660           (4) When an operator's adjusted gross sports wagering receipts for a month is a negative  
661   number because the winnings paid to wagerers and excise taxes paid pursuant to federal law  
662   exceed the operator's total gross receipts from sports wagering, the commission shall allow the  
663   operator to carry over the negative amount to returns filed for subsequent months. The negative  
664   amount of adjusted gross sports wagering receipts shall not be carried back to an earlier month  
665   and taxes previously received by the commission shall not be refunded unless the operator  
666   surrenders its license and the operator's last return reported negative adjusted gross sports  
667   wagering receipts.

668           (c) The excise on adjusted gross sports wagering receipts imposed by this section shall be  
669   in lieu of all other state and local taxes and fees imposed on the operation of, or the proceeds  
670   from operation of, sports wagering.

671           (d) Annually, not later than July 1, the commission shall publish on its website a report  
672   stating the amount in fees, surcharges and civil penalties received from operators and taxes  
673   received from operators and from people or entities that offer fantasy contests, as defined in  
674   section 11M½ of chapter 12.

675           Section 15. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
676   separate fund to be known as the Sports Wagering Control Fund. The commission shall be the  
677   trustee of the fund and shall expend money to finance the operational activities of the  
678   commission pertaining to sports wagering. The fund shall be credited with: (i) any appropriation,  
679   bond proceeds or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be  
680   credited thereto; (ii) the proceeds of any fees collected pursuant to this section unless otherwise  
681   specified; (iii) fees collected pursuant to sections 7 and 8; (iv) breaks; and (v) such additional



682 funds as are subject to the direction and control of the commission. All available money in the  
683 fund that is unexpended at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and  
684 shall be available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

685 (b) The commission shall establish fees for any investigation into a violation of this  
686 chapter or regulation promulgated hereunder by a sports wagering operator to be paid by the  
687 sports wagering operator including, but not limited to, billable hours by commission staff  
688 involved in the investigation and the costs of services, equipment or other expenses that are  
689 incurred by the commission during the investigation.

690 (c) Any remaining costs of the commission necessary to maintain regulatory control over  
691 sports wagering operators that are not covered by: (i) the fees set forth in subsection (b); (ii) any  
692 other fees assessed pursuant to this chapter; or (iii) any other designated sources of funding, shall  
693 be annually assessed on sports wagering operators pursuant to this chapter in proportion to each  
694 operator's share of the commonwealth's total adjusted gross sports wagering receipts. Each  
695 operator shall pay the amount assessed against the operator not more than 30 days after the date  
696 of the notice of assessment from the commission.

697 (d) If the fees collected pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) exceed the cost required to  
698 maintain regulatory control, the surplus funds shall be credited in proportional shares against  
699 each sports wagering operator's next assessment.

700 (e) The commission shall annually assess and collect a \$1,000,000 fee in shares to be  
701 determined by the commission against each sports wagering operator that is not a category 1 or  
702 category 2 gaming licensee, as defined in section 2 of chapter 23K. The fee collected pursuant to  
703 this subsection shall be deposited into the Public Health Trust Fund established in section 58 of

said chapter 23K and shall be used for the costs of services and public health programs provided for in said section 58 of said chapter 23K.

Section 16. (a) The commission may assess a civil administrative penalty on an operator who fails to comply with any provision of this chapter, house rules or any regulation or order adopted by the commission; provided, however, that the noncompliance shall have occurred after the commission has given such operator written notice of the noncompliance and the time stated in the notice for coming into compliance has elapsed; provided further, that the commission may assess a penalty without providing written notice if the failure to comply: (i) was part of a pattern of noncompliance and not an isolated instance; (ii) was willful or neglectful and not the result of error; (iii) resulted in a significant breach to the integrity of the operator or the sports wagering laws of the commonwealth; or (iv) consisted of failure to promptly report to the commission any knowledge of evidence or circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a violation of this chapter has been committed. The civil administrative penalty shall be in addition to any other civil penalty that may be prescribed by law.

(b) For the purpose of determining whether such noncompliance was part of a pattern of noncompliance and not an isolated instance, the commission shall consider, but not be limited to; (i) whether the commission had previously notified the operator of such noncompliance on more than 1 occasion during the previous month or of any noncompliance with the same provision of a law, regulation, order, license or approval as the current noncompliance during the previous 6-month period; or (ii) whether the current and previous instances of noncompliance, considered together, indicate a potential threat to the integrity of the operator and sports wagering in the commonwealth or an interference with the commission's ability to efficiently and effectively regulate sports wagering in the commonwealth and enforce any regulation, license or order. If an

727 operator that has received a notice of noncompliance fails to come into compliance within the  
728 time period stated in the notice, the civil administrative penalty may be assessed by the  
729 commission upon the operator from the date of receipt of such notice.

730 (c) If the commission seeks to assess a civil administrative penalty on an operator, the  
731 commission shall cause to be served upon the operator, by service in hand or by certified mail,  
732 return receipt requested, a written notice of its intent to assess a civil administrative penalty that  
733 shall include: (i) a concise statement of the alleged act or omission for which such civil  
734 administrative penalty is sought to be assessed; (ii) each law, regulation, order, license or  
735 approval that has not been complied with as a result of such alleged act or omission; (iii) the  
736 amount that the commission seeks to assess as a civil administrative penalty for each alleged act  
737 or omission; (iv) a statement of the operator's right to an adjudicatory hearing on the proposed  
738 assessment; (v) the requirements the operator shall comply with to avoid being deemed to have  
739 waived the right to an adjudicatory hearing; and (vi) the manner of payment thereof if the  
740 operator elects to pay the penalty and waive an adjudicatory hearing. After written notice of  
741 noncompliance or intent to assess a civil administrative penalty has been given, each day  
742 thereafter during which noncompliance occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense  
743 and shall be subject to a separate civil administrative penalty if reasonable efforts have not been  
744 made by the operator to promptly come into compliance.

745 (d) If the commission seeks to assess a civil administrative penalty on an operator, the  
746 operator shall have the right to an adjudicatory hearing under chapter 30A, the provisions of  
747 which shall apply except when they are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

(c) An operator shall be deemed to have waived its right to an adjudicatory hearing unless, not more than 21 days after the date of the commission's notice that the commission seeks to assess a civil administrative penalty, the operator files with the commission a written statement denying the occurrence of any of the acts or omissions alleged by the commission in the notice or asserting that the amount of the proposed civil administrative penalty is excessive. In an adjudicatory hearing authorized under chapter 30A, the commission shall be required to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, the occurrence of each act or omission alleged by the commission in the notice.

(f) If an operator waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, the proposed civil administrative penalty shall be final immediately upon such waiver. If a civil administrative penalty is assessed at the conclusion of an adjudicatory hearing, the civil administrative penalty shall be final upon the expiration of 30 days unless an action for judicial review of the decision is commenced under chapter 30A.

(g) An operator who institutes proceedings for judicial review of the final assessment of a civil administrative penalty shall place the full amount of the final assessment in an interest-bearing escrow account in the custody of the clerk or magistrate of the reviewing court. The establishment of an interest-bearing escrow account shall be a condition precedent to the jurisdiction of the reviewing court unless the party seeking judicial review demonstrates, in a preliminary hearing held not more than 20 days after the filing of the complaint, the presence of a substantial question for review by the court or the operator's inability to pay. Upon such a demonstration, the court may grant an extension or waiver of the interest-bearing escrow account requirement or may require, in lieu of such interest-bearing escrow account, the posting of a

770 bond payable directly to the commonwealth in the amount of 125 per cent of the assessed  
771 penalty.

772 If, after judicial review, in a case where the escrow account requirement has been waived,  
773 and in cases where a bond has been posted in lieu of such requirement, the court affirms, in  
774 whole or in part, the assessment of a civil administrative penalty, the commission shall be paid  
775 the amount thereof together with interest at the rate provided in section 6C of chapter 231. If,  
776 after judicial review in a case where an interest-bearing escrow account has been established, the  
777 court affirms the assessment of such penalty, in whole or in part, the commission shall be paid  
778 the amount thereof together with the accumulated interest in the interest-bearing escrow account.  
779 If the court sets aside the assessment of a civil administrative penalty in a case where the amount  
780 of such penalty has been deposited in an interest-bearing escrow account, the operator on whom  
781 the civil administrative penalty was assessed shall be repaid the amount so set aside, together  
782 with the accumulated interest thereon.

783 (h) Each operator who fails to timely pay a civil administrative penalty and each operator  
784 who issues a bond under this section and fails to timely pay to the commission the amount  
785 required for the bond, shall be liable to the commonwealth for up to 3 times the amount of the  
786 civil administrative penalty, together with costs, plus interest accrued from the time the civil  
787 administrative penalty became final and attorneys' fees, including all costs and attorneys fees  
788 incurred directly in the collection of the penalty. The rate of interest shall be the rate provided in  
789 section 6C of chapter 231. The commission may require that the amount of a civil administrative  
790 penalty imposed under this section exceed any economic benefit realized by a person.

(i) The commission may impose conditions on, suspend or revoke an operator's license or reprimand or assess a fine on an operator upon a finding that the operator: (i) has committed a criminal or civil offense under this chapter or under any other law; (ii) is not in compliance with sports wagering regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter; (iii) is under criminal investigation in another jurisdiction; (iv) has breached a condition of licensure; (v) has affiliates, close associates or employees that are not qualified or licensed under this chapter with whom the operator continues to conduct business or employ; (vi) is no longer capable of maintaining operations as a sports wagering operator; or (vii) whose business practice, upon a determination by the commission, is injurious to the policy objectives of this chapter.

Section 17. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a Sports Wagering Fund which shall receive revenues collected pursuant to sections 6 and 14. The commission shall be the trustee of the fund and shall transfer monies from the fund as follows:

(1) 45 per cent to the General Fund;

(2) 17.5 per cent to the Workforce Investment Trust Fund established in section 18;

(3) 27.5 per cent to the Gaming Local Aid Fund established in section 63 of section 23K;

(4) 1 per cent to the Youth Development and Achievement Fund established in section 19; and

(5) 9 per cent to the Public Health Trust Fund established in section 58 of section 23K.

Section 18. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Workforce Investment Trust Fund. There shall be credited to the fund any sports wagering revenue transferred from the Sports Wagering Fund pursuant to

section 16. Monies transferred to the fund shall be continuously expended, without regard for fiscal year, exclusively for carrying out the purposes of this section. Money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

(b) The fund shall be administered by the secretary of housing and economic development. Money in the fund shall be competitively granted to develop and strengthen workforce opportunities for low-income communities and vulnerable youth and young adults in the commonwealth, including providing opportunities and strategies to promote stable employment and wage growth.

(c) Eligible grant recipients shall provide opportunities which: (i) target at risk youth, including resources to empower youth to succeed in the workforce; (ii) provide job skills trainings, including programs offering trainings in multiple languages and areas for development, including education and hands on skills; (iii) promote adult literacy, including strategies to master reading and writing and providing digital formats to increase accessibility; and (iv) provide English language learning programs to promote access to the workforce. The secretary of housing and economic development shall establish criteria to evaluate applications for the grant program; provided, that the criteria shall include, but shall not be limited to, at risk populations; provided further, that preference shall be given to eligible grant recipients providing opportunities for individuals who meet at least 2 of the following: (i) is under 30 years of age; (ii) is a victim of violence; (iii) is over 18 years of age and does not have a high school diploma; (iv) has been convicted of a felony; (v) has been unemployed or has had a family income below 250 per cent of the federal poverty level for not less than 6 months; (vi) lives in a census tract where over 20 per cent of the populations fall below the federal poverty line; or (vii) is an immigrant, refugee or person of color.

835 (d) Annually, not later than October 1, the secretary of housing and economic  
836 development shall provide a report of the grants given and a breakdown of expenditures made by  
837 the fund. The report shall be posted on the website of the executive office of housing and  
838 economic development.

839 Section 18. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
840 fund to be known as the Youth Development and Achievement Fund. The fund shall be credited  
841 any monies transferred from the Sports Wagering Fund pursuant to section 16 and all monies  
842 credited to or transferred to the fund from any other fund or source. Expenditures from the fund  
843 shall be subject to appropriation and shall be expended equally for the following purposes:

844 (1) For the purposes of providing financial assistance to students from the commonwealth  
845 enrolled in and pursuing a program of higher education in any approved public or independent  
846 college, university, school of nursing or any other approved institution furnishing a program of  
847 higher education;

848 (2) For the purposes of funding after-school and out-of-school activities, including, but  
849 not limited to, youth athletics and other activities that improve student health, literacy programs,  
850 English language learning programs, academic tutoring, art, theater and music programs and  
851 community service programs; and

852 (3) For the purposes of providing matching grants to elementary and secondary youth  
853 sports, organizations, clubs and other school groups to attend events including, but not limited to,  
854 academic events and programs, cultural events and award ceremonies both nationally and  
855 internationally.



Section 20. The commission shall conduct a study into the feasibility of allowing retail locations in the commonwealth to operate sports wagering kiosks. The study by the commission shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of: (i) the economic impact of this chapter on retail establishments that serve alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption, such as restaurants and bars; (ii) which retail locations have the ability to operate a sports wagering kiosk; (iii) the economic impact to the commonwealth of authorizing retail locations to operate a sports wagering kiosk; (iv) the methods and availability of payouts of winnings by a sports wagering kiosks at retail locations; (v) the public health and safety impacts to the commonwealth of authorizing retail locations to operate a sports wagering kiosk; (vi) the potential effect of sports wagering kiosks at retail locations on problem gaming or gambling; (vii) the impact of sports wagering kiosks at retail locations on minors; (viii) the economic impact of authorizing this method of sports wagering on businesses owned by people of color; (ix) the public health and economic impact of this method of sports wagering as an alternative to the current black market, particularly in communities far from authorized in-person sports wagering; and (x) recommendations to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion are included in this method of sports wagering. As part of the study, the commission shall consult retailers, convenience stores, restaurants, women and minority owned businesses and small business owners. The commission shall report on its findings and submit any recommendations to the clerks of the house and senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on consumer protection and professional licensure and the joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies no later than December 31, 2022.

Section 21. (a) The commission may impose on any person who violates this chapter a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,000 for each violation or \$5,000 for violations arising from the

879 same series of events. Such penalty shall be imposed on all persons and is not limited to persons  
880 licensed under this chapter.

881 (b) The commission may condition, suspend, reprimand, assess a fine or revoke an  
882 operator license upon a finding that a licensee: (i) has committed a criminal or civil offense  
883 under this chapter or under any other laws of the commonwealth; (ii) is not in compliance with  
884 sports wagering regulations; (iii) is under criminal investigation in another jurisdiction; (iv) has  
885 breached a condition of licensure; (v) has affiliates, close associates or employees that are not  
886 qualified or licensed under this chapter with whom the licensee continues to conduct business or  
887 employ; (vi) is no longer capable of maintaining operations as a sports wagering operator or data  
888 supplier; or (vii) whose business practice, upon a determination by the commission,  
889 is injurious to the policy objectives of this chapter.

890 Section 21. (a) Whoever, other than an operator under this chapter, engages in accepting,  
891 facilitating or operating a sports wagering operation shall be punished by imprisonment in the  
892 house of correction for not more than 90 days or by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or both; and for  
893 a second offense, by imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 6 months or by a  
894 fine of not more than \$50,000, or both; and in the case of a third or subsequent violation by  
895 imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 1 but not more than 5 years or by a fine of not  
896 less than \$25,000 and not more than \$100,000, or both.

897 Section 22. An operator shall not discharge, demote, suspend, threaten, harass or in any  
898 other manner discriminate against an employee because of any lawful act done by the employee  
899 to provide information, cause information to be provided or otherwise assist in an investigation

900 regarding any conduct that the employee reasonably believes constitutes a violation of this  
901 chapter.

902       Section 23. (a) The commission shall develop an annual research agenda in order to  
903 understand the social and economic effects of sports wagering in the commonwealth and to  
904 obtain scientific information relative to the neuroscience, psychology, sociology, epidemiology  
905 and etiology of sports wagering. The secretary of health and human services, with the advice and  
906 consent of the commission, may expend funds from the Public Health Trust Fund established in  
907 section 58 of chapter 23K to implement the objectives of the sports wagering research agenda;  
908 provided, however, that the objectives of the sports wagering research agenda shall, to the extent  
909 practicable, be substantially similar to the objectives of the research agenda established under  
910 section 71 of said chapter 23K. The sports wagering research agenda shall also include, but not  
911 be limited to: (i) an assessment of whether problem sports wagering is comorbid with problem  
912 gambling; (ii) an assessment as to whether the individuals participating in sports wagering are  
913 different than those who participate in other forms of gaming or gambling; (iii) an assessment of  
914 the impact of sports wagering on youth under the age of 25; (iv) an assessment of the impacts of  
915 sports wagering on college athletics and professional sports; and (v) the costs of implementing  
916 this chapter.

917       (b) Annually, the commission shall make scientifically-based recommendations that  
918 reflect the results of the research under clause (a) to the clerks of the senate and house of  
919 representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on  
920 economic development and emerging technologies, the joint committee on mental health,  
921 substance use and recovery and the joint committee on public health. The commission shall  
922 consider any such recommendations, research and findings in all decisions related to enhancing

923 responsible gambling and mitigating problem sports wagering. The recommendations shall be  
924 posted on the commission's website.

925 SECTION 6. Chapter 128C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the  
926 following new section:-

927 Section 9. Notwithstanding sections 1 to 8, inclusive, or any other general or special law  
928 to the contrary, no racing meeting licensee, including licensees holding racing meetings in  
929 connection with a state or county fair as defined in section 1 of chapter 128A, shall simulcast or  
930 accept a wager on greyhound dog racing, and a running horse racing meeting licensee shall  
931 conduct not less than 20 live racing days at a thoroughbred horse racing track, provided, the  
932 commission may waive this requirement as necessary and appropriate to ensure the financial  
933 ability of the licensee to develop and operate a race track.

934 SECTION 7. Section 1 of chapter 137 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
935 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the figure "23K", in line 3, the following  
936 words:- or sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

937 SECTION 8. Section 2 of said chapter 137, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
938 inserting after the figure "23K", in line 3, the following words:- or an operator who offers sports  
939 wagering pursuant to chapter 23N.

940 SECTION 9. Section 3 of said chapter 137, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
941 inserting after the figure "23K", in line 7, the following words:- or sports wagering conducted  
942 pursuant to chapter 23N.

943           SECTION 10. Section 1 of chapter 271 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
944 amended by striking out, in line 4, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the  
945 following words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

946           SECTION 11. Section 2 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
947 striking out, in line 4, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following  
948 words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

949           SECTION 12. Section 3 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
950 striking out, in line 1, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following  
951 words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

952           SECTION 13. Section 5 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
953 striking out, in line 1, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following  
954 words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

955           SECTION 14. Section 5A of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is further amended by  
956 inserting after the words “chapter 23K”, in line 32, the following words:- or sports wagering  
957 conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

958           SECTION 15. Section 5B of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
959 striking out, in line 58, the words “chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following  
960 words:- chapters 23K and 23N.

961           SECTION 16. Section 8 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
962 striking out, in lines 10 to 11, the words “other game of chance that is not being conducted in a  
963 gaming establishment licensed under chapter 23K” and inserting in place thereof the following

964 words:- other game that is not being conducted pursuant to chapter 23K and any other sports  
965 wagering that is not being conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

966 SECTION 17. Section 17 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
967 inserting after the words "chapter 23K", in line 27, the following words:- or for the purpose of  
968 sports wagering conducted in accordance with chapter 23N.

969 SECTION 18. Said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking  
970 out section 17A and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

971 Section 17A. Except as permitted under chapter 23N, whoever uses a telephone, internet  
972 or other communications technology or, being the occupant in control of premises where a  
973 telephone, internet or other communications technology is located or a subscriber for such  
974 communications technology, knowingly permits another to use a telephone, internet or other  
975 communications technology so located or for which such person subscribes, as the case may be,  
976 for the purpose of accepting wagers or bets, or buying or selling of pools, or for placing all or  
977 any portion of a wager with another, upon the result of a trial or contest of skill, speed or  
978 endurance of man, beast, bird or machine, or upon the result of an athletic game or contest, or  
979 upon the lottery called the numbers game, or for the purpose of reporting the same to a  
980 headquarters or booking office, or who under another name or otherwise falsely or fictitiously  
981 procures telephone, internet or other communications technology service for oneself or another  
982 for such purposes, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000 or by imprisonment for  
983 not more than 1 year; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to use of telephones or  
984 other devices or means to place wagers authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 5C of  
985 chapter 128A.

986           SECTION 19. Section 19 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
987 inserting after the words “chapter 23K”, in line 19, the following words:- and shall not apply to  
988 advertising of sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

989           SECTION 20. Section 20 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
990 adding the following sentence:- Nothing in this section shall prohibit an operator licensed under  
991 chapter 23N from posting, advertising or displaying materials relevant to its sports wagering  
992 operations.

993           SECTION 21. Section 23 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
994 inserting after the words “chapter 23K”, in line 31, the following words:- and shall not apply to  
995 sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

996           SECTION 22. Section 27 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
997 inserting after the word “thereto”, in line 15, the following words:- ; provided, however, that  
998 such provisions shall not apply to sports wagering conducting pursuant to chapter 23N.

999           SECTION 23. Section 28 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
1000 inserting after the word “prescribed”, in line 12, the following words:- ; provided, however, that  
1001 such provisions shall not apply to sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

1002           SECTION 24. Section 42 of said chapter 271, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
1003 inserting after the word “both”, in line 4, the following words:- ; provided, however, that such  
1004 provisions shall not apply to sports wagering conducted pursuant to chapter 23N.

1005           SECTION 25. The Massachusetts gaming commission shall conduct a study on the  
1006 participation by minority business enterprises, women business enterprises and veteran business

1007 enterprises in the sports wagering industry in the commonwealth. The study shall include, but not  
1008 be limited to, an analysis of: (i) participation in activities related to the regulation, licensing and  
1009 promotion of sports wagering operators; (ii) the level of participation of women, minority and  
1010 veteran employees working for sports wagering licensees and employers; (iii) the level of  
1011 participation by minority-owned and women-owned businesses that contract with or provide  
1012 services to sports wagering licensees and employers; (iv) any barriers to employment of women  
1013 and minorities in the sports wagering industry; and (v) methods for increasing racial and gender  
1014 diversity in the workforce in the sports wagering industry, including whether to set reasonable  
1015 and appropriate goals and procedures for increasing the number of minority business enterprises  
1016 providing sports wagering industry-related services to sports wagering licensees and employers.  
1017 The commission shall report on its findings and submit any recommendations to the clerks of the  
1018 senate and house of representatives, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the  
1019 joint committee on racial equity, civil rights, and inclusion and the joint committee on economic  
1020 development and emerging technologies not later than December 31, 2022.

1021 SECTION 26. Section 135 of chapter 219 of the acts of 2016 is hereby repealed.

1022 SECTION 27. Sections 2 and 6 shall take effect 1 year after the effective date of this act.



# CITY OF GARDNER

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Manca Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 201 Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

Phone: (978) 630-4014 ♦ Fax: (978) 632-1905 ♦ CDBG (978) 632-3800



February 23, 2024

President Elizabeth J. Kazinskas  
c/o Titi Sirphan, City Clerk  
City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

RECEIVED  
2024 FEB 23 AM 8:50  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

**Subject: Zoning Amendment - Marijuana Establishments / Final Recommendation**

Following the City Council/Planning Board Joint Public Hearing held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, on the above referenced item, the Planning Board held a meeting on February 20, 2024, and voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the subject zoning amendment by the City Council.

Please feel free to contact Trevor M. Beauregard, Director of Community Development and Planning if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron  
Chairman

Cc: Mayor  
Planning Board  
City Council  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Thomas Zuppa, Building Commissioner

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 675 THEREOF, ENTITLED “ZONING,” TO AMEND SECTION 1070 THEREOF, ENTITLED, “MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS” TO INCREASE THE QUOTE ALLOWED BY THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Subsection (C)(8)(b) of Section 1070 of Chapter 675 of the Code of the City of Gardner be amended by replacing “20%” with “35%” as follows:

b) The number of marijuana retail establishments shall not exceed 35% of liquor licenses issued for retail sale of alcohol not consumed on the premises in the City of Gardner, said number to be rounded up to the next whole number;

SECTION 2: That this ordinance take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.



**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
 95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 \*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
 NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024** at **6:45 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

- 11112** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses. *(Submitted by Councillor Dana Heath; In the City Council, Referred to Planning Board 12/4/2023, More Time 12/18/2023)*
- 11113** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to Change the Method to Increase the Quota Allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner. *(Submitted by Councillor Dana Heath; In the City Council, Referred to Planning Board 12/4/2023; More Time 12/18/2023)*

Information regarding this amendment is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP), or on the City’s webpage – [www.gardner-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov).

All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
 City Clerk

# CITY OF GARDNER

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Manca Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 201 Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

Phone: (978) 630-4014 ♦ Fax: (978) 632-1905 ♦ CDBG (978) 632-3800



December 14, 2023

President Elizabeth J. Kazinskas  
c/o Titi Siriphan, City Clerk  
City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

Subject: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning," to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, "Marijuana Establishments" to Change the Method to Increase the Quota Allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner. *(Submitted by Councilor Dana Heath)*

At the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, the Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend the City Council approve and adopt the requested Zoning Amendment as referenced above to increase the quota. The Planning Board also voted to hold a Joint Public Hearing with the City Council.

Please do not hesitate to contact Trevor M. Beauregard, Director of Community Development and Planning if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron  
Chairman

Cc: Mayor  
Planning Board  
City Council  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Thomas Zuppa, Building Commissioner

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 675 THEREOF, ENTITLED "ZONING," TO AMEND SECTION 1070 THEREOF, ENTITLED, "MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS" TO INCREASE THE QUOTE ALLOWED BY THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1:** Subsection (C)(8)(b) of Section 1070 of Chapter 675 of the Code of the City of Gardner be amended by replacing "20%" with "35%" as follows:

b) The number of marijuana retail establishments shall not exceed 35% of liquor licenses issued for retail sale of alcohol not consumed on the premises in the City of Gardner, said number to be rounded up to the next whole number;

**SECTION 2:** That this ordinance take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

# CITY OF GARDNER

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING



RECEIVED  
MAY 30 PM 1:50  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 30, 2023

Elizabeth Kazinskas, Council President  
C/o Titi Sirphan, City Clerk  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: **Petition 10893** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner.

Dear President Kazinskas:

At its meeting on March 22, 2023, the Planning Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to recommend approving the proposed zoning amendment referenced above based on the information provided to them by the petitioner.

The Planning Board looks forward to joining the City Council at the joint public hearing scheduled on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Trevor Beauregard if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Schafron, Planning Board Chairman

C: Mayor Michael J. Nicholson  
Trevor M. Beauregard, Director  
Richard Hanks, Interim Building Commissioner





## City of Gardner - *Executive Department*

Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

2023 MAR 30 AM 8:43  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

March 29, 2023

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

Mr. Mark Schafron, Chair  
And Planning Board Members  
Gardner City Hall, Manca Annex, Rm 201  
115 Pleasant St  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: Written Testimony: Item #10893: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning," to amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled "Marijuana Establishments" to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner

Dear Madam President, Councilors, Mr. Chairman, and Planning Board Members,

I am writing in support of the aforementioned zoning amendment proposal.

When the retail sale of cannabis products was legalized in the Commonwealth in 2019, several municipalities, including Gardner, took steps to heavily regulate the industry since we didn't really know what would happen once the cannabis industry became legalized.

Since then we have seen that commercial enterprises like these do not cause as much of a strain on our services as we had originally been concerned about and have not been a public safety concern at all for us.

This proposal seeks to loosen the market constraints in the City and simply let the economic market be the market. If the City does not have the capability of handling more up to four (4) retail cannabis stores, then the market will correct itself for that.

An example of this can be seen with the regular tobacco/vape smoke shops that used to exist in the Downtown area. These businesses, unregulated in terms of number of facilities that could open in the City, were not marketed by the City and simply opened and then consolidated from five (5) to one (1) on their own because that was all the market was able to carry.

The purpose of this amendment, while it also provides a financial benefit to the City through statutorily required sales tax and host community agreement fees, is simply to relax some of the regulations placed on this industry and let the City's economy play itself out. This does still regulate the retail cannabis industry to four (4) locations, but it at least loosens the restriction of only being able to allow two (2) locations in the City.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner



**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
 95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 \*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
 NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING, continued

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

- **10891** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 Thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Change the Classification of Certain Parcels of Land Along Route 140.
- **10892** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses.
- **10893** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner

Information regarding this amendment is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP), or on the City’s webpage – [www.gardner-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov).

All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
 City Clerk





**CITY of GARDNER**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 121  
Gardner, MA 01440  
\*Tel. 978-630-4058 \*Fax: 978-630-2589

CITY OF GARDNER  
NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to G.L. 40A, § 5, notice is hereby given that the City Council and Planning Board will conduct a **Joint Public Hearing** on **Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, to consider amending Chapter 675, the Zoning Code of the City of Gardner. The proposed Amendment involves changing items:

- **10891** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 Thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Change the Classification of Certain Parcels of Land Along Route 140.
- **10892** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to add “Sports Betting” to the Zoning Table of Uses.
- **10893** – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled “Zoning,” to Amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, “Marijuana Establishments” to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner

Information regarding this amendment is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP), or on the City’s webpage – [www.gardner-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov).

All persons interested in this matter and desire to offer testimony are invited to attend the hearing.

Titi Siriphan  
City Clerk



**City of Gardner - *Executive Department***

**Mayor Michael J. Nicholson**

February 3, 2023

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

RE: An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 thereof, entitled "Zoning," to amend Section 1070 thereof, entitled, "Marijuana Establishments" to increase the quota allowed by the Code of the City of Gardner.

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

As you are aware, in 2018, the retail sale of cannabis products became legalized in the Commonwealth.

When the City adopted the sale of Marijuana into our ordinances in November of 2018, the ordinances limited the number of establishments that could open in the City for the retail sale of cannabis to twenty percent (20%) of "license issues for retail sale of alcohol not consumed on the premises." (Code of the City of Gardner 675-1070(C)(8)(b)).

Whereas the City is currently issued ten (10) liquor licenses that fit this category, this provision of the City Code limited the number of retail cannabis locations to two (2) locations in the City.

One of the main reasons this quota limit was drafted was due to uncertainty as to how this new market would run its course in the City and the Commonwealth as a whole. However, since then, we have seen that these businesses do not provide a detriment to the City, and have seen the financial benefit the City receives from this as well.

The City currently has one retail location open with Sanctuary, with a second location – Bloc Cannabis – permitted at the Timpany Crossroads location.

This attached ordinance amendment proposal would increase the number of locations allowed in the City from two (2) to four (4). It is the belief of the Administration that this would allow more economic activity in the City based on inquiries that we have seen, keep the industry within a workable range that we are seeing in market trends with the cannabis industry around the Commonwealth, and done with the full support of our public safety departments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

CC:  
City Council Public Welfare Committee  
Planning Board

**CITY OF GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

200 Main Street  
Gardner, Massachusetts 01440  
Phone: (978) 632-5600  
Fax: (978) 632-9045



Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police

Nicholas P. Maroni  
Deputy Chief of Police

February 2, 2023

The Honorable Michael J. Nicholson, Mayor  
Gardner City Hall  
95 Pleasant Street  
Gardner, MA 01440

Re: Retail Marijuana Ordinance

Dear Mayor,

After reviewing the proposed ordinance change from two retail dispensary licenses to four, I do not see any issue with this particular change moving forward. Retail marijuana dispensaries have been operating in the state for the past few years and are closely monitored and regulated by the Cannabis Control Commission. Any retail dispensaries are required to have pre-determined surveillance camera coverage (inside and outside) and purpose-built safes for stored retail product. This is in addition to physical security during operating hours.

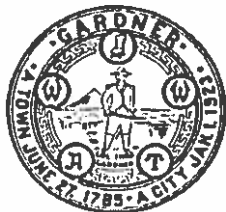
The Gardner Police Department has responded to calls at the current recreational retail dispensary, but the vast majority of the calls are general service calls (accidents, lockouts, burglar alarms, etc.). The police department rarely deals with anything else there.

We have conducted "compliance checks" at Sanctuary using underage youths to enter and purchase cannabis products. Sanctuary has never failed a compliance check. In fact, no youth has ever made it past the front door. I have spoken to law enforcement in other host dispensary locations and have not heard of any major issues.

If there are any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Eric P. McAvene  
Chief of Police



**City of Gardner**  
**Department of Inspectional Services**  
**115 Pleasant Street, Room 101**  
**Gardner, MA 01440**  
Tel. (978) 630-4007 Fax: (978) 632-3313

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Feb. 7, 2023

RE: Marijuana Retail Establishments

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I believe the text amendment regarding the number of Marijuana Retail Establishments will only increase opportunities in the City for revenue, and jobs. From a Zoning standpoint I have seen no ill effects from the existing Marijuana Facility. I currently have an application for a Building permit for a second facility which would leave us with no additional licenses. This would in effect tie our hands regarding further growth. I am in full support of this proposal.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further assistance.

Roland Jean  
Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer  
City Hall Annex  
115 Pleasant St. RM 101  
Gardner, MA 01440  
(978) 630 4007  
rjean@gardner-ma.gov

**Mission Statement**

To promote the safe and compatible development of the community through fair and consistent enforcement of building codes and zoning ordinances

**Mayor**

---

**From:** John Richard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Marijuana Fees History

Hi Mike

Here you go.

Description	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
MARIJUANA HCA FEES	\$ 26,367.11	\$ 124,076.56	\$ 132,015.11	\$ 118,394.64	\$ 47,072.12
MARIJUANA SALES EXCISE TAX	\$ 104,773.64	\$ 237,668.25	\$ 306,969.74	\$ 383,850.54	\$ 50,330.46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 131,140.75</b>	<b>\$ 361,744.81</b>	<b>\$ 438,984.85</b>	<b>\$ 502,245.18</b>	<b>\$ 97,402.58</b>

John Richard  
City Auditor



95 Pleasant Street, Room 114  
Gardner, MA 01440-2630  
978-632-1900 ext 8020

**Mayor**

---

**From:** Ashley Metivier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 11:04 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Liquor Retail - Not Consumed on Premise

Hi Mike,

We have 10 locations licensed as retail sale, not consumed on premises:

Malt/Wine Packaged Goods

Town Convenience, 13 Pine St  
 BP, 221 Main St  
 South Gardner Mini Mart, 94 S. Main St  
 Jays Variety, 32 E. Broadway  
 Price Chopper, 500 Main St

All Alcohol Packaged Goods

Beauregard Liquors, 11 West St  
 Brazells, 201 Pleasant St  
 Hannaford, 14-20 Timpany Blvd  
 Gardner Spirits, 364 Timpany Blvd  
 Anthony's, 12 Pearson Blvd

Let me know if you need any more information!

**Ashley Metivier**  
**Administrative Assistant/License Commission Clerk**  
 City of Gardner  
 95 Pleasant St, Room 29  
 Gardner, MA 01440  
 P: 978-630-4013 Ext: 8042  
 F: 978-632-4682  
 E: [AMetivier@gardner-ma.gov](mailto:AMetivier@gardner-ma.gov)

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# Current Ordinance

City of Gardner, MA  
Friday, February 3, 2023

## Chapter 675. Zoning

### Article X. Supplemental Regulations

#### § 675-1070. Marijuana establishments.

##### A. Purpose.

- (1) To provide for the placement of marijuana establishments in appropriate places and under conditions in accordance with the provisions of MGL c. 94G.
- (2) To minimize the adverse impacts of marijuana establishments on adjacent properties, residential neighborhoods, schools and other places where children congregate, local historic districts, and other sensitive land uses potentially incompatible with said establishments.
- (3) To regulate the siting, design, placement, security, safety, monitoring, modification, and discontinuance of marijuana establishments.

##### B. Applicability.

- (1) No marijuana establishment shall be established except in compliance with the provisions of § 675-410 (Schedule of permitted uses) and this § 675-1070 (Marijuana establishments).
- (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede federal and state laws governing the sale and distribution of Class 1 Controlled Substances.
- (3) If any provision of this section or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this section, to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of those provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

##### C. General requirements and conditions for all marijuana establishments.

- (1) All marijuana establishments shall be contained within a building or structure.
- (2) The hours of operation of marijuana establishments shall be set by the special permit granting authority.
- (3) No marijuana establishment property line shall be located within 500 linear feet of a lot line where the following districts, activity, or uses occur:
  - (a) (Reserved)<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> *Editor's Note: Former Subsection C(3)(a), regarding nonconforming residential dwellings, was repealed 9-3-2019 by Ord. No. 1625.*
  - (b) Any church, public or private school or child-care facility; or place where minors frequent (e.g., a library, ball field, park, sports or family recreation facility, religious facility or the like);
  - (c) Any other marijuana establishment;
  - (d) Any drug or alcohol rehabilitation facility; or
  - (e) Any correctional facility, halfway house or similar facility.
- (4) No smoking, burning or consumption of any product containing marijuana or marijuana-related products shall be permitted on the premises of a marijuana establishment.

- (5) No marijuana establishment shall be located inside a building containing residential units, including transient housing such as motels and dormitories, or inside a movable or mobile structure such as a van or truck.
- (6) Marijuana establishments shall provide the Gardner Police and Fire Departments, Building Commissioner, Board of Health, and the special permit granting authority with the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all management staff and key holders to whom one can provide notice if there are operating problems associated with the establishment.
- (7) The City shall have access at any time to inspect the premises of the marijuana establishment to ensure compliance with local and state regulations, excluding client health information protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.
- (8) Pursuant to MGL c. 94G, § 3(a)(2)(i) to (iii), the maximum number of licensed marijuana establishments in the City shall be consistent with the following provisions:
  - (a) Shall not prohibit one or more types of marijuana establishment;
  - (b) The number of marijuana retail establishments shall not exceed 20% of liquor licenses issued for retail sale of alcohol not consumed on the premises in the City of Gardner, said number to be rounded up to the next whole number;
  - (c) The number of marijuana establishments shall not prevent the conversion of a medical marijuana treatment center licensed or registered no later than July 1, 2017, to a marijuana establishment engaged in the same type of activity.

[Amended 9-3-2019 by Ord. No. 1625]

D. Special permit requirements.

- (1) No special permit for any marijuana establishment shall be issued without site plan approval first having been obtained from the Planning Board, § 675-1010, Site plan review, of this chapter. In addition to the standards set forth within, the site plan must meet all dimensional, parking, landscaping, and signage requirements within this chapter.
- (2) A marijuana establishment shall only be allowed by special permit from the Gardner Planning Board in accordance with MGL c. 40A, § 9, subject to the following statements, regulations, requirements, conditions and limitations.
- (3) A special permit for a marijuana establishment shall be limited to one or more of the following uses that shall be specified by the special permit granting authority:
  - (a) Marijuana cultivator;
  - (b) Marijuana product manufacturer;
  - (c) Marijuana retailer;
  - (d) Marijuana testing facility;
  - (e) Marijuana transportation or distribution facility; and
  - (f) Any other type of licensed marijuana-related business.
- (4) In addition to the application requirements set forth above, a special permit application for a marijuana establishment shall include the following:
  - (a) The name and address of each owner of the establishment;
  - (b) Copies of all required licenses and permits issued to the applicant by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission and any of its other agencies for the establishment;
  - (c) Evidence of the applicant's right to use the site of the establishment for the establishment, such as a purchase and sale agreement, deed, owner's authorization, or lease;
  - (d) Proposed security measures for the marijuana establishment, including lighting, fencing, gates and alarms, etc., to ensure the safety of persons and to protect the premises from theft. A letter

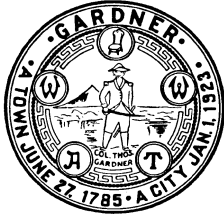


from the City of Gardner Police Chief, or designee, acknowledging review and approval of the marijuana establishment security plan is required. To the extent allowed by law, all such documents shall be confidential.

- (5) Mandatory findings. The special permit granting authority shall not issue a special permit for a marijuana establishment unless it finds that:
  - (a) The establishment is designed to minimize any adverse impacts on abutters and other parties in interest, as defined in MGL c. 40A, § 11.
  - (b) The establishment demonstrates that it will meet all the permitting requirements of all applicable agencies within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will comply with all applicable state laws and regulations; and
  - (c) The applicant has satisfied all the conditions and requirements set forth herein.
- (6) A special permit granted under this section shall have a term limited to the duration of the applicant's ownership or leasehold of the premises as a marijuana establishment. A special permit may be transferred only with the approval of the special permit granting authority in the form of an amendment to the special permit with all information required in this § 675-1070.

E. Abandonment or discontinuance of use.

- (1) A special permit shall lapse if not exercised within one year of issuance.
- (2) A marijuana establishment shall be required to remove all personal property, including but not limited to all material, plants, equipment, accessories, paraphernalia, and any other property no later than the earliest of:
  - (a) Prior to surrendering its state-issued licenses or permits; or
  - (b) Within six months of ceasing operations.



## CITY OF GARDNER - EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### Michael J. Nicholson, Mayor

---

February 26, 2024

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

RE: A Communication regarding Informal Meeting of Tuesday, February 20, 2024 relating to Item # 11180: An Order Appropriating \$625,000.00 from Stabilization to DPW Salt Shed

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with the Administration regarding the proposal to construct a new salt shed at the DPW facility at your informal meeting held on February 20, 2024. At this meeting, it was requested that the Administration present a synopsis of the information that was present at that evening. That information is herein provided.

#### **Existing Shed:**



*Figure 1: Existing Salt Shed facing South*



*Figure 2: Existing Salt Shed facing North*

The existing structure is located at the DPW Garage located at 50 Manca Drive. At approximately 50 years old, the structure has completed its useful life for the City and is in extreme need of replacement.

The current building is approximately 40'x82' and holds 1,200 tons of salt. The side of the building are bellowing out due to years of holding a corrosive material in a wooden structure, and the roof has several large holes in it as well.

When the building was originally constructed 50 years ago, it met the needs of the City at that time, however, a structure that is being supported on the outside by braces on the wall, which is too short for our current salt trucks to be able to back into requiring the use of a front end loader both load the trucks but also break up the salt that has been hardened and solidified as a result of being open to the elements – simply does not meet the need of a modern City with 105 miles of road.

There were several times during the winter of 2022 – 2023, in which the City was left contacting other municipalities in the area to borrow salt, because we did not have enough supply on hand to adequately respond to the winter storm weather we were experiencing, because the City did not have a place to store the product.

The City should not be at a spot where we have to weigh storage of salt against adequately treating the roads to make sure they are safe and passable for those traveling around the City and our emergency response vehicles needing to respond as situations arrive.



*Figure 3: Existing Salt Shed, West facing wall with supports and Southeast Corner of Roof with hole*

### **Proposed Replacement:**

The Administration is proposing to replace the existing salt with a new 65'x140' structure to be located on a parcel of land that the City currently owns behind Salvadore Auto across the street from the DPW Administration Building on Manca Drive.

This 2.9 acre parcel is already owned by the City. The geological survey and engineering plans for this project show that this parcel is ideal for this purpose, as there are no concerns with

running into any wetlands buffers in the area and there is sufficient room to add precautionary retention ponds at the site to mitigate any environmental concerns.



*Figure 4: Concept Example of Proposed New Salt Shed*

The new supplies for the new structure would be purchased from the Inspector General's "State Contract," in which the Commonwealth, through the Inspector General's Office has already gone out to bid for the goods. The structure would be constructed on a foundation for four concrete blocks, with a steel frame, covered by a heavy fabric that was designed and graded for this purpose.

The site around the structure would also be paved and the existing trees at the site would also need to be cleared.

While the actual structure itself is under state contract for procurement purposes, the City would still have to go out to bid for the labor associated with the project at prevailing wage rates.

This new structure would triple the size of the structure and allow us to store enough salt for 12 to 15 storms, approximately 3,600 tons, rather than the 4 to 7 storms that we can currently provide enough salt supply for.



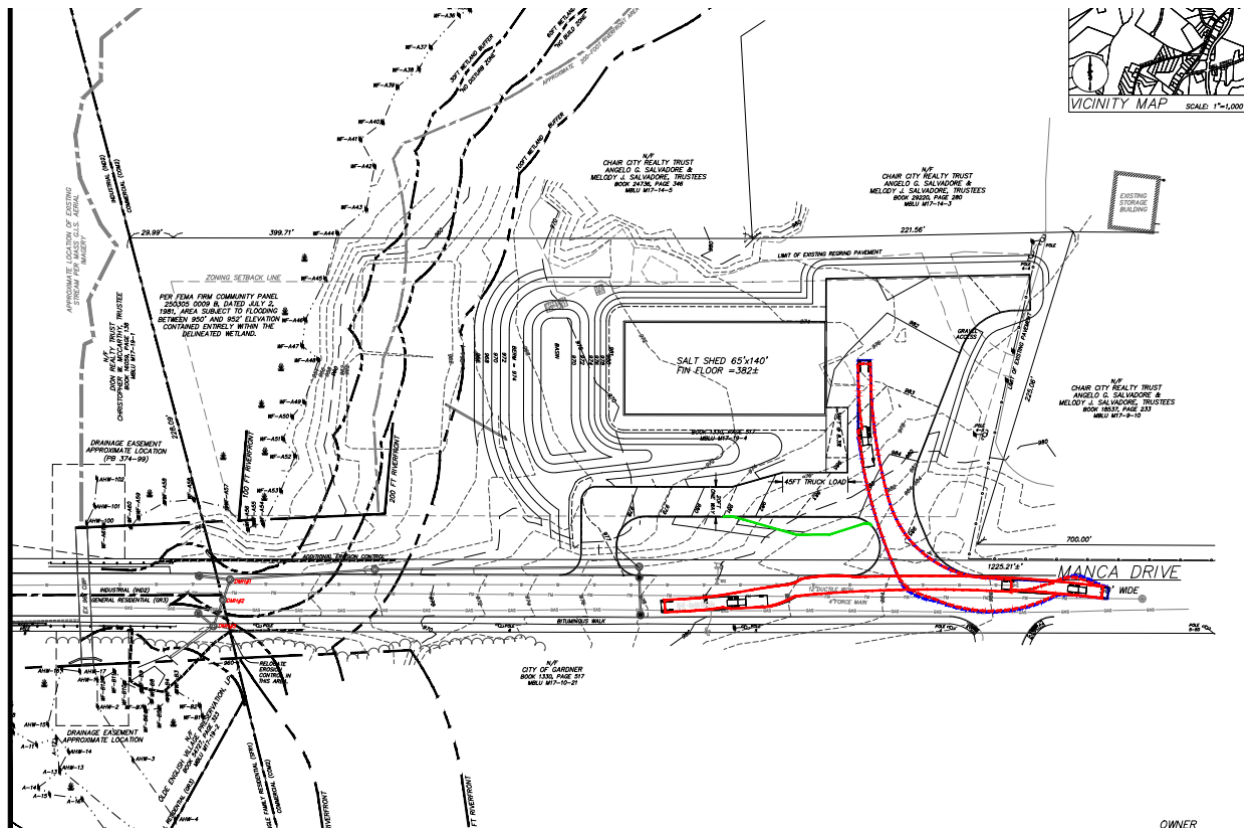


Figure 5: Engineering Content Design by Hannigan Engineering for New Salt Shed Project

## **Security:**

The question was also raised about security at the new proposed facility.

Currently, the existing salt shed has no gate in front of its entrance and is located right next to the street on Manca Drive.

The proposed structure would be in full view of the current DPW administration building and have a chain link gate across the front that will be high enough and locked to block people from accessing the salt, except for our authorized DPW personnel.

## **Financial Options:**

The Administration and the City Auditor reviewed several different funding options for this project. After this review, the Administration is recommending to take the funding as an appropriation from the City's stabilization account with a plan to replenish the account to where it would be in accordance with the City's financial policies.

<b>Salt Shed</b>	
Building	\$ 185,000.00
Installation	\$ 200,000.00
Equipment Rentals	\$ 28,000.00
Tree Removal	\$ -
Clear and Grub	\$ 20,000.00
Site Materials	\$ 10,000.00
Site Work/D-Basins	\$ 50,000.00
Paving	\$ 30,000.00
Electrical/Lighting	\$ 35,000.00
Concrete Blocks	\$ 35,000.00
Plywood Interior	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 603,000.00</b>
Contingency	\$ 22,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 625,000.00</b>

Figure 6: Anticipated Project Budget

## Stabilization:

### *Current Balance, Guidelines, and Policies:*

The City's stabilization account currently has a balance of 3,599,953.49. This is the highest this balance has been since the account was created.

Stabilization Accounts	Balance		
<b>FY2016</b>	\$ 2,225,146.26		
<b>FY2017</b>	\$ 2,379,395.86		
<b>FY2018</b>	\$ 2,621,830.43		
<b>FY2019</b>	\$ 2,284,737.78		
<b>FY2020</b>	\$ 2,651,095.74		
<b>FY2021</b>	\$ 2,938,257.22	% of FY2024 General Fund	
<b>FY2022</b>	\$ 3,188,962.31	3%	\$ 2,198,898.03
<b>FY2023</b>	\$ 3,206,825.58	5%	\$ 3,664,830.05
<b>FY2024</b>	\$ 3,559,953.49		

Figure7: Stabilization Account History, FY2016-FY2024

Gardner's financial policies state that annually, upon certification of Free Cash by the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue, the Mayor shall put forward an appropriation request for an amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of certified Free Cash to be deposited into the stabilization account.

Additionally, the Department of Revenue best practices state that the goal for municipalities is to have a balance in their stabilization accounts equivalent to three percent (3%) to five percent (5%) of their annual operating budget, not including enterprise accounts.

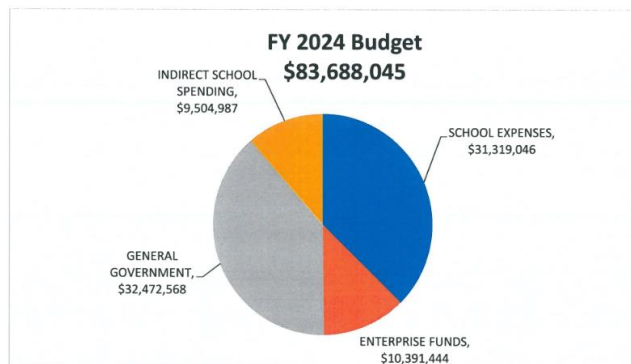


Figure 8: FY2024 Budget Breakdown

% of FY2024 General Fund	
3%	\$ 2,198,898.03
5%	\$ 3,664,830.05

Figure 9: Mass Dept of Revenue Guidelines compared to FY2024 Gardner Operating Budget

The FY2024 budget, adopted by the City Council on June 6, 2023 came to a subtotal of \$73,296,601, not including the enterprise funds.

This places the current balance of the stabilization account directly in target with the recommended balances by the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue, even if this appropriation is taken out.

Per the General Laws of the Commonwealth, the City may only appropriate funds from the Stabilization Account with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the City Council.

*Funding Plan:*

In the last eight (8) years, the City has averaged a balance of \$ in 2,550,183.13 certified free cash every fall, following the Department of Revenue's review of the City's fiscal year close out.

Per the City's financial policies, that creates an approximate appropriation to the City's stabilization account of \$127,509.16.

Free Cash Balance	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Fiscal Year	\$ 2,436,499	\$ 2,274,137	\$ 1,482,830	\$ 3,098,475	\$ 2,301,969	\$ 3,611,634	\$ 2,616,362	\$ 2,579,559.00
			Average FC	\$ 2,550,183.13				
			Average FC to Stab	\$ 127,509.16				
			Average FC 15%	\$ 382,527.47				

Figure 10: Certified Free Cash, FY2016 - FY2024

Should this appropriation pass the City Council, I would commit to have the Administration amend the City's financial policies to a total of fifteen percent (15%) of the City's certified free cash for a period of the next four (4) years.

Utilizing the projects from the average amount of free cash the City annually receives, this should get us not only to where current balance of the stabilization account is without the appropriation, but also to where it would be has the appropriation not been taken out and the usual five percent (5%) annual appropriation put into the account.

In simple terms, this is similar to the City taking a short term loan out against itself with the funds we already have available to us.

Bond (Loan Order):

The City did review the merits of taking a loan order out for the project and bonding the cost of the proposed facility for both a period of five (5) years and ten (10) years.

In both cases, it would substantially increase the costs to the City by \$56,250 in interest with a five (5) year loan, or \$118,125 in interest on a ten (10) year loan.

<b>City of Gardner, Massachusetts</b> <b>\$625,000 General Obligation Bonds Dated June 1, 2024</b> <b>5 Years, Equal Principal</b> <b>Interest Estimated; Subject to Change</b>					
<b>Debt Service Schedule</b>					
Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+I	Fiscal Total
06/01/2024	-	-	-	-	-
12/01/2024	-	-	9,375.00	9,375.00	-
06/01/2025	125,000.00	3.000%	9,375.00	134,375.00	-
06/30/2025	-	-	-	-	143,750.00
12/01/2025	-	-	7,500.00	7,500.00	-
06/01/2026	125,000.00	3.000%	7,500.00	132,500.00	-
06/30/2026	-	-	-	-	140,000.00
12/01/2026	-	-	5,625.00	5,625.00	-
06/01/2027	125,000.00	3.000%	5,625.00	130,625.00	-
06/30/2027	-	-	-	-	136,250.00
12/01/2027	-	-	3,750.00	3,750.00	-
06/01/2028	125,000.00	3.000%	3,750.00	128,750.00	-
06/30/2028	-	-	-	-	132,500.00
12/01/2028	-	-	1,875.00	1,875.00	-
06/01/2029	125,000.00	3.000%	1,875.00	126,875.00	-
06/30/2029	-	-	-	-	128,750.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$625,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$56,250.00</b>	<b>\$681,250.00</b>	<b>-</b>

Figure 11: Bond Scenario for 5 Year Loan for Project

(Section Continues on Next Page)



**City of Gardner, Massachusetts**  
**\$625,000 General Obligation Bonds Dated June 1, 2024**  
**10 Years, Equal Principal**  
*Interest Estimated; Subject to Change*

**Debt Service Schedule**

Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+I	Fiscal Total
06/01/2024	-	-	-	-	-
12/01/2024	-	-	10,937.50	10,937.50	-
06/01/2025	65,000.00	3.500%	10,937.50	75,937.50	-
06/30/2025	-	-	-	-	86,875.00
12/01/2025	-	-	9,800.00	9,800.00	-
06/01/2026	65,000.00	3.500%	9,800.00	74,800.00	-
06/30/2026	-	-	-	-	84,600.00
12/01/2026	-	-	8,662.50	8,662.50	-
06/01/2027	65,000.00	3.500%	8,662.50	73,662.50	-
06/30/2027	-	-	-	-	82,325.00
12/01/2027	-	-	7,525.00	7,525.00	-
06/01/2028	65,000.00	3.500%	7,525.00	72,525.00	-
06/30/2028	-	-	-	-	80,050.00
12/01/2028	-	-	6,387.50	6,387.50	-
06/01/2029	65,000.00	3.500%	6,387.50	71,387.50	-
06/30/2029	-	-	-	-	77,775.00
12/01/2029	-	-	5,250.00	5,250.00	-
06/01/2030	60,000.00	3.500%	5,250.00	65,250.00	-
06/30/2030	-	-	-	-	70,500.00
12/01/2030	-	-	4,200.00	4,200.00	-
06/01/2031	60,000.00	3.500%	4,200.00	64,200.00	-
06/30/2031	-	-	-	-	68,400.00
12/01/2031	-	-	3,150.00	3,150.00	-
06/01/2032	60,000.00	3.500%	3,150.00	63,150.00	-
06/30/2032	-	-	-	-	66,300.00
12/01/2032	-	-	2,100.00	2,100.00	-
06/01/2033	60,000.00	3.500%	2,100.00	62,100.00	-
06/30/2033	-	-	-	-	64,200.00
12/01/2033	-	-	1,050.00	1,050.00	-
06/01/2034	60,000.00	3.500%	1,050.00	61,050.00	-
06/30/2034	-	-	-	-	62,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$625,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$118,125.00</b>	<b>\$743,125.00</b>	<b>-</b>

Figure 12: Bond Scenario, 10 year loan

Additionally, Hilltop Securities, Inc., the City's Bond Counsel, recommended against taking a loan out for this project, as the amount was too small to be advantageous to bond companies that would issue the loan to the City. They recommend against taking out long term loans, defined as a period of five (5) or more years, for any amount under one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for this purpose, due to the higher chance of larger fees and interest payments due to the smaller amount.

Bond Anticipation Note (BAN):

The other funding option that the Administration explored was the possibility of taking out a Bond Anticipation Note ("BAN") for the project. However, this also proved to be more financially impracticable, as it would cost the City an extra \$62,500 to \$109,187.50 in interest on

the project with a five (5) year loan, or \$62,500 to \$173,500 in interest on the project with a ten (10) year loan.

<b>City of Gardner, Massachusetts</b> \$625,000 General Obligation Bonds Dated June 1, 2026 Assumes 2 years of BANs dated June 1, 2024, followed by 3-Year Bonds **interest estimated, subject to change**					
<b>Debt Service Schedule</b>					
Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+I	Fiscal Total
06/01/2024	-	-	-	-	-
06/01/2025	625,000.00	5.000%	31,250.00	31,250.00	-
06/30/2025	-	-	-	-	31,250.00
06/01/2026	625,000.00	5.000%	31,250.00	31,250.00	-
06/30/2026	-	-	-	-	31,250.00
12/01/2026	-	-	11,718.75	11,718.75	-
06/01/2027	210,000.00	3.750%	11,718.75	221,718.75	-
06/30/2027	-	-	-	-	233,437.50
12/01/2027	-	-	7,781.25	7,781.25	-
06/01/2028	210,000.00	3.750%	7,781.25	217,781.25	-
06/30/2028	-	-	-	-	225,562.50
12/01/2028	-	-	3,843.75	3,843.75	-
06/01/2029	205,000.00	3.750%	3,843.75	208,843.75	-
06/30/2029	-	-	-	-	212,687.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$625,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$109,187.50</b>	<b>\$734,187.50</b>	<b>-</b>

Figure 13: Bond Scenario, 2 year BAN on a 5 year loan

(Section Continues on Next Page)

### City of Gardner, Massachusetts

\$625,000 General Obligation Bonds Dated June 1, 2026

Assumes 2 years of BANs dated June 1, 2024, followed by 8-Year Bonds

\*\*interest estimated, subject to change\*\*

#### Debt Service Schedule

Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+I	Fiscal Total
06/01/2024	-	-	-	-	-
06/01/2025	625,000.00	5.000%	31,250.00	31,250.00	-
06/30/2025	-	-	-	-	31,250.00
06/01/2026	625,000.00	5.000%	31,250.00	31,250.00	-
06/30/2026	-	-	-	-	31,250.00
12/01/2026	-	-	12,500.00	12,500.00	-
06/01/2027	80,000.00	4.000%	12,500.00	92,500.00	-
06/30/2027	-	-	-	-	105,000.00
12/01/2027	-	-	10,900.00	10,900.00	-
06/01/2028	80,000.00	4.000%	10,900.00	90,900.00	-
06/30/2028	-	-	-	-	101,800.00
12/01/2028	-	-	9,300.00	9,300.00	-
06/01/2029	80,000.00	4.000%	9,300.00	89,300.00	-
06/30/2029	-	-	-	-	98,600.00
12/01/2029	-	-	7,700.00	7,700.00	-
06/01/2030	80,000.00	4.000%	7,700.00	87,700.00	-
06/30/2030	-	-	-	-	95,400.00
12/01/2030	-	-	6,100.00	6,100.00	-
06/01/2031	80,000.00	4.000%	6,100.00	86,100.00	-
06/30/2031	-	-	-	-	92,200.00
12/01/2031	-	-	4,500.00	4,500.00	-
06/01/2032	75,000.00	4.000%	4,500.00	79,500.00	-
06/30/2032	-	-	-	-	84,000.00
12/01/2032	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
06/01/2033	75,000.00	4.000%	3,000.00	78,000.00	-
06/30/2033	-	-	-	-	81,000.00
12/01/2033	-	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
06/01/2034	75,000.00	4.000%	1,500.00	76,500.00	-
06/30/2034	-	-	-	-	78,000.00
Total	\$625,000.00	-	\$173,500.00	\$798,500.00	-

Figure 14: Bond Scenario, 2 year BAN on a 10 year loan

Under this type of financing plan, the City would pay an extra increased interest payment for a period of two (2) years in exchange for not making any payments toward the principal amount of the loan during that time period, then once the two years are expired, the payments on the principal would begin.

This is similar to a student in college who takes out a student loan before they graduate where they are still subject to interest but not required to make payments toward the principal on the loan. However, unlike that example, the City would still be liable to make the initial interest payments during the two anticipation years.

### **Final Funding Recommendation:**

After consulting with Hilltop Securities, the City's Bond Counsel, and the City's Auditor and Treasurer, taking out a loan or a BAN for this project are not advisable due to the small amount of the project.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the City of Gardner mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jen. Attached please find estimated debt service schedules assuming the City would issue BANs for 2 years beginning in June 2024, followed by 3-year Bonds (for a total term of 5 years) and 8-year Bonds (for a total term of 10 years). The Bonds assume equal principal payments. Do you know when the City would plan to borrow for this? Would you issue with any of the City's other authorized but unissued debt? We wanted to mention that it would make sense to combine this with other borrowing needs as \$625,000 would be quite small and unattractive as a standalone bond issue. As always, please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need anything else. Thanks!

**Megan Hyland**

Hilltop Securities Inc.

Vice President | Investment Banker

Figure 15: Email from Bond Counsel to City Treasurer, 24 FEB 2024

Additionally, the City's budget has already seen substantial increases in interest payments alone, simply from the Gardner Elementary School loan hitting the City's books for payment last year.

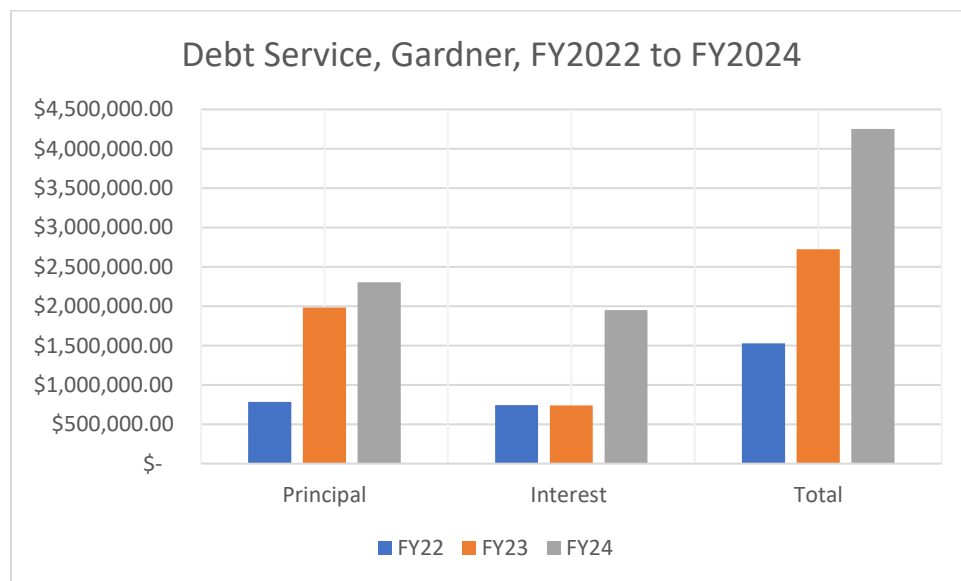


Figure 16: Gardner Debt Service, Principal, Interest, and total, FY22-24

Gardner General Fund Debt Service			
	Principal	Interest	Total
FY22	\$ 784,361.00	\$ 744,946.00	\$ 1,529,307.00
FY23	\$ 1,983,740.00	\$ 741,000.00	\$ 2,724,740.00
FY24	\$ 2,302,930.00	\$ 1,950,375.00	\$ 4,253,305.00

As such, the Administration, at the recommendation of Bond Counsel, the City Auditor, and the City Treasurer are recommending that the appropriation for this project come from the City's stabilization account.

I understand that this account is supposed to really be reserved for emergency purposes, however, there is precedent in Gardner for using these funds to cover capital projects that are an immediate need of the City, like the replacement of the existing salt shed. In 2017, the City Council voted to appropriate funds from the stabilization account to fund a portion of the Watkins Field renovation project.

If the City had a lower amount in our stabilization account or we did not have a plan to replenish this account within the proposed four (4) year period, I would not be proposing this be the funding source for this project. However, we have the funding available and we have a plan in place to protect the City financially in the long term. For these reasons, I truly believe this is the best path forward for the City on this project.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael J. Nicholson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Nicholson" clearly legible.

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

Enclosures:  
City Financial Policies



# City of Gardner - Executive Office

## Administration Budget and Financial Management Policies

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Administration of the City of Gardner

#### Introduction

The City of Gardner has an important responsibility to carefully account for public funds, to manage municipal finances wisely, and to plan and provide for the adequate funding of services desired by the public and as required by laws, rules, or regulations, including the provision and maintenance of public facilities and improvements. The following financial principles set forth the broad framework for overall fiscal planning and management of the City of Gardner's resources. In addition, these principles address both current activities and long-term planning. The budget and financial goals and policies set forth by the Administration in this document are intended to establish guidelines for the continued financial strength and stability of the City of Gardner.

#### Goals

- To provide full value to the residents and business owners of Gardner for each tax dollar by delivering quality services efficiently and on a cost- effective basis.
- To preserve our quality of life by providing and maintaining adequate financial resources necessary to sustain a sufficient level of municipal services, and to respond to changes in the economy, the priorities of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other changes that may affect our financial well-being.
- To achieve and maintain a top level, AAA, credit rating
- To guide City decision makers on management and policy decisions which have significant fiscal importance
- To set forth operating principles that minimizes the cost of government and financial risk.
- To employ balanced and fair revenue policies that provides adequate funding for desired programs.
- To maintain appropriate financial capacity for present and future needs.
- To promote sound financial management by providing accurate and timely information on the City's financial condition

- To ensure the legal use of financial resources through an effective system of internal controls.

## Policies

To achieve the goals mentioned in this document, the Administration has adopted the following policies. These policies were created with the full understanding that the City Council retains the full right to approve appropriations and the incurrence of debt, as required by law, and within statutory limits, such as those set forth by Proposition 2 ½.

### Operating Budget

Sound financial practice and the desire to maintain a strong credit rating dictate that our budgets be balanced, constantly monitored, and responsive to changes in service demands. With these concepts in mind, the City of Gardner has adopted the following budget policy statements.

- The Mayor shall annually prepare a balanced budget and comprehensive Budget Message as required by state law and city charter. The Budget Message shall include a detailed examination of trends in tax levy “new growth” revenues, local receipts, state aid, and available funds.
- The annual operating budgets will be appropriated on a balanced basis, where operating revenues (estimated revenues) are used to fund operating expenditures/expenses (appropriations)
  - Operating revenues include property taxes, motor vehicle excises, charges for services, interest earnings, license and permit fees, fines and forfeitures, regularly recurring governmental aid, and transfers in from other funds established for operating purposes.
  - Operating expenditures/expenses include salaries and wages, employee benefits, equipment and improvements, depreciation (property funds only), materials, supplies, and contractual costs. These expenditures shall be broken down by city department in the annual budget document presented to the City Council by the Administration.
- The Administration will avoid budgetary procedures that balance current expenditures at the expense of meeting future expenses, such as postponing expenditures or accruing future years’ revenues.
- Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the use of operating revenues for capital expenditures/expenses
- The Administration will avoid relying on Free Cash to fund on-going operating expenses.
- To the extent possible, one-time revenues that are not required by law or agreement to be expended for a particular purpose will only be used for capital purposes, augmenting of City reserves, or emergency expenditures/expenses
- The operating budget will not be subsidized by the Stabilization Fund.

### Revenues

Revenues determine the capacity of the City of Gardner to provide services. To ensure that revenues for the City are balanced and capable of supporting desired levels of services, the Administration has adopted the following policies:

- Revenue forecasts for local receipts and state aid shall be conservative, using generally accepted forecasting techniques and appropriate data. Revenue deficits will be avoided at all costs. To

avoid any potential deficits, estimates for local receipts will generally not exceed 100% of the prior year's actual collections.

- Each year and whenever appropriate, existing revenues will be re-examined and possible new sources of revenues will be explored to ensure that we are maximizing our revenue potential.
- The Administration shall strive to be informed and aware of all grants and other aid that may be available to us. All potential grants and other aid shall be carefully examined for matching requirements (both dollar and level-of-effort) and restrictive covenants, to ensure that our participation in such grants will be beneficial and cost-effective.
- Each year and whenever appropriate, intergovernmental revenues will be reviewed to determine their short and long-term stability, to minimize the impact of any adverse changes. Intergovernmental revenues shall be used as legally prescribed or otherwise set forth by policy.
- One-time revenues will be used for capital improvements, additions to reserves, or as legally restricted to a specific purpose.
- The City will carefully and routinely monitor all amounts due the City. An aggressive policy of collection will be followed for all receivables, including property taxes.
- Enterprise fund user charges and fees will be set to recover all direct and associated costs within the activities of these funds as well as any indirect costs associated with these accounts.

#### Reserves:

A municipality's fiscal policies should include a plan for maintaining reserves. Operating reserves are a prudent fiscal management tool and an important credit factor in the analysis for financial flexibility. The City of Gardner will maintain a level of reserves that protect the City from emergency conditions that require financial flexibility and contribute to the high credit rating that the City currently holds from Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investment Services. To provide for adequate levels of reserves to protect the City's financial condition over the long-term, the Administration has adopted the following financial reserves policy:

#### Stabilization Account:

- The City of Gardner shall maintain a Stabilization Fund to provide the reserves that are required to protect the financial condition of the City.
- The City will work toward the goal of maintaining in the Stabilization Fund an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total projected general fund operating revenues for the previous fiscal year.
- Withdrawals from the Stabilization Fund will only be used for sudden and unexpected events, in extreme circumstances. Withdrawals from the Stabilization Fund will only be made in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, City Ordinances and the City Charter.

#### Free Cash:

Whereas the amount of Free Cash certified every year may differ depending on revenue and expense trends that take place throughout the fiscal year, the Administration will avoid using Free Cash to fund portions of the operating budget. In doing so, the Administration seeks to use Free Cash for liability coverage, capital costs, and other one-time expenses that may arise during the remainder of the fiscal year. All this is done with the understanding that the City Council has appropriating authority under Massachusetts General Laws, City Ordinances, and the City Charter.



- The first request for appropriation of free cash on behalf of the Administration to the City Council shall be five percent (5%) of the total amount certified that year into the City Stabilization Account.
- One percent (1%) of the certified amount of free cash requested on behalf of the Administration from the City Council shall be appropriated into the Other Post-Employment Benefit Trust Fund annually.
- After the previous two appropriations have been approved, the Administration will request that 10% of the total certified amount be appropriated for Road Resurfacing and Repair annually.
- After the aforementioned appropriations have been approved by the City Council, the Mayor shall use the remaining available Free Cash to fund capital costs that the City may undertake or extraordinary budgetary costs that become foreseeable by the end of the fiscal year.



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

2024 JAN 25 PM 1:39

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
GARDNER, MA

January 25, 2024

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

RE: Stabilization Appropriation Request- DPW Salt Shed

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

The current salt storage shed at the Department of Public Works is in large amounts of disrepair and it is the opinion of the Administration that this forty-year-old building will no longer be able to accommodate the City's needs come next winter.

In order to allow enough time for the construction of the new salt shed to be constructed, I am submitting this request to the City Council asking for an appropriation from the City's Stabilization Account to build this structure that is necessary for our winter road safety operations.

Once the winter is over, and we have a better picture as to what we expended for Snow and Ice removal this year, the Administration will be reviewing replenishing the stabilization account with a free cash appropriation, however, I do not feel comfortable requesting an appropriation of this size out of free cash until we see the full financial picture that this winter will bring.

Respectfully Submitted,

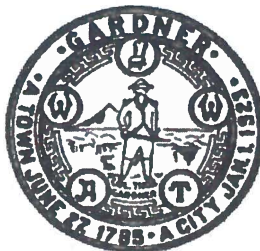
Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM STABILIZATION TO DPW SALT  
SHED

ORDERED:

That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Six Hundred Twenty-Five  
Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$625,000.00) from Stabilization to DPW Salt Shed.

**CITY OF GARDNER**  
**Department of Public Works**



Highway  
Water  
Sewer  
Forestry  
Parks/Playgrounds  
Cemeteries

Dane E. Arnold, Director  
50 Manca Drive  
Gardner, MA 01440-2687  
Telephone (978) 630-8195  
darnold@gardner-ma.gov

Mayor Micheal J. Nicholson  
95 Pleasant Street  
Gardner, MA 01440

January 25, 2024

Dear Mayor Nicholson,

I am writing to express my concern about the current state of our city's salt storage shed and to urge you to consider allocating funds for its replacement. The current salt storage shed is approximately 50 years old and in significant disrepair. The attached pictures show larger portions of the roof missing and the walls bowed out of plumb from rot. I do not believe the building has much time left before a catastrophic failure.

The proposed replacement salt storage shed is a pre-engineered galvanized metal truss structure with fabric covering. These buildings are the most cost-efficient method for construction when total storage area is prioritized. The shed will be built in a new location across the street from the DPW administration building at 50 Manca Drive. This new site, which is already owned by the City of Gardner, will allow the shed to be approximately 3 times larger. Having this additional storage volume will enable the DPW to stockpile enough salt to treat 12-15 storms. The DPW has already contracted with an engineering firm to complete the site plan design in order to comply with all Massachusetts Stormwater Regulations.

The cost estimate for this project is \$625,000.00. This price includes \$465,000 for the physical structure and its installation along with an additional \$160,000 for site work, paving, lighting, stormwater mitigation and fencing. Once funding is secured work will be able to start in the spring and hopefully be completed for the 24'-25' winter season. We plan on trying to do as much of the work in-house to reduce costs.

Please contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Dane E. Arnold, Director  
Department of Public Works

**Mayor**

---

**From:** Dane Arnold  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 2:52 PM  
**To:** Mayor; Rob Oliva; Chris Coughlin  
**Subject:** RE: Cost Estimate- New Salt Shed

Hello,  
Please find the Salt Shed Estimate below:

**Salt Shed**

Building	\$ 185,000.00
Installation	\$ 200,000.00
Equipment Rentals	\$ 28,000.00
Tree Removal	\$ -
Clear and Grub	\$ 20,000.00
Site Materials	\$ 10,000.00
Site Work/D-Basins	\$ 50,000.00
Paving	\$ 30,000.00
Electrical/Lighting	\$ 35,000.00
Concrete Blocks	\$ 35,000.00
Plywood Interior	\$ 10,000.00
 Total	 \$ 603,000.00
Contingency	\$ 22,000.00
 Total	 \$ 625,000.00

Thank You,

**Dane E. Arnold, Director**

**Department of Public Works**

**50 Manca Drive**

**Gardner, MA 01440**

**978-630-8195**





*Existing Salt Shed*





Existing Salt Shed













*Design of Proposed new Shed*





*Location of Proposed New School*



CURRENT OWNER										TOPO TYPE		UTILITY		STREET		LOCATION		CURRENT ASSESSMENT		316																							
CITY OF GARDNER										TOPO WET		EASEMENT		TRAFFIC		CORNER		Description EXM LAND		Code 9300		Assessed 110,400																					
95 PLEASANT ST STE 125										DRAINAGE		VIEW		COMMUNITY								GARDNER, MA																					
GARDNER MA 01440										SUPPLEMENTAL DATA																																	
Alt Prcl ID Sub-Div Photo Ward Prec.																																											
GIS ID M 159103 923523																																											
RECORD OF OWNERSHIP										BK-VOL/PAGE		SALE DATE		QU		VII		SALE PRICE		VC		PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS (HISTORY)																					
CITY OF GARDNER										1 0		01-01-1900		Q		V		0 1E		Year 2023		Code 9300		Assessed 60,500		Year 2021		Code 9300		Assessed 60,500													
										Total										Total		68,300		60,500		Total		60,500															
EXEMPTIONS										Amount		Code		Description		Number		Amount		Comm Int																							
										0.00																																	
ASSESSING NEIGHBORHOOD										Nbhd Name		B		Tracing						Batch																							
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NOTES																																											
BUILDING PERMIT RECORD										Permit Id		Issue Date		Type		Description		Amount		Insp Date		% Comp		Date Comp		Comments		Date 05-25-2022 10-28-2008 06-30-1981		Type CK JAG 43		Cd 22 00 00		Purpost/Result Vacant Parcel Measur+Listed Measur+Listed									
																																		110,400									
LAND LINE VALUATION SECTION										B		Use Co		Zone		Description		Land Units		Unit Price		I. Fact		S.A.		Ac Di		C. Fact		St. Idx		Adj		Notes		Special Pricing		Size A		Adj Unit Pric		Land Value	
1 9300 City of Gardner										C1		2		0		0		43,560		2,31		1,000		A		1,000		1,00		C1		1.00				0 1,000		2,31		100,600			
1 9300 City of Gardner										C1		2		0		0		1,960		5,000.00		1,000		0		1,000		1,00		1.00		1.00		0 1,000		5,000		9,800					
Total Card Land Units																2.96		AC		Parcel Total Land Area:		2.96														Total Land Value		110,400					

[illegible]



[illegible]





PROJECT INFORMATION

LAND INFORMATION  
MAP SHEET NO. 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1

GENERAL NOTES:  
1. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS PROJECT.  
2. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS PROJECT.  
3. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS PROJECT.

LAND INFORMATION  
MAP SHEET NO. 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1

GENERAL NOTES:  
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LAND INFORMATION  
MAP SHEET NO. 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
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LAND INFORMATION  
MAP SHEET NO. 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
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GENERAL NOTES:  
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LAND INFORMATION  
MAP SHEET NO. 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1

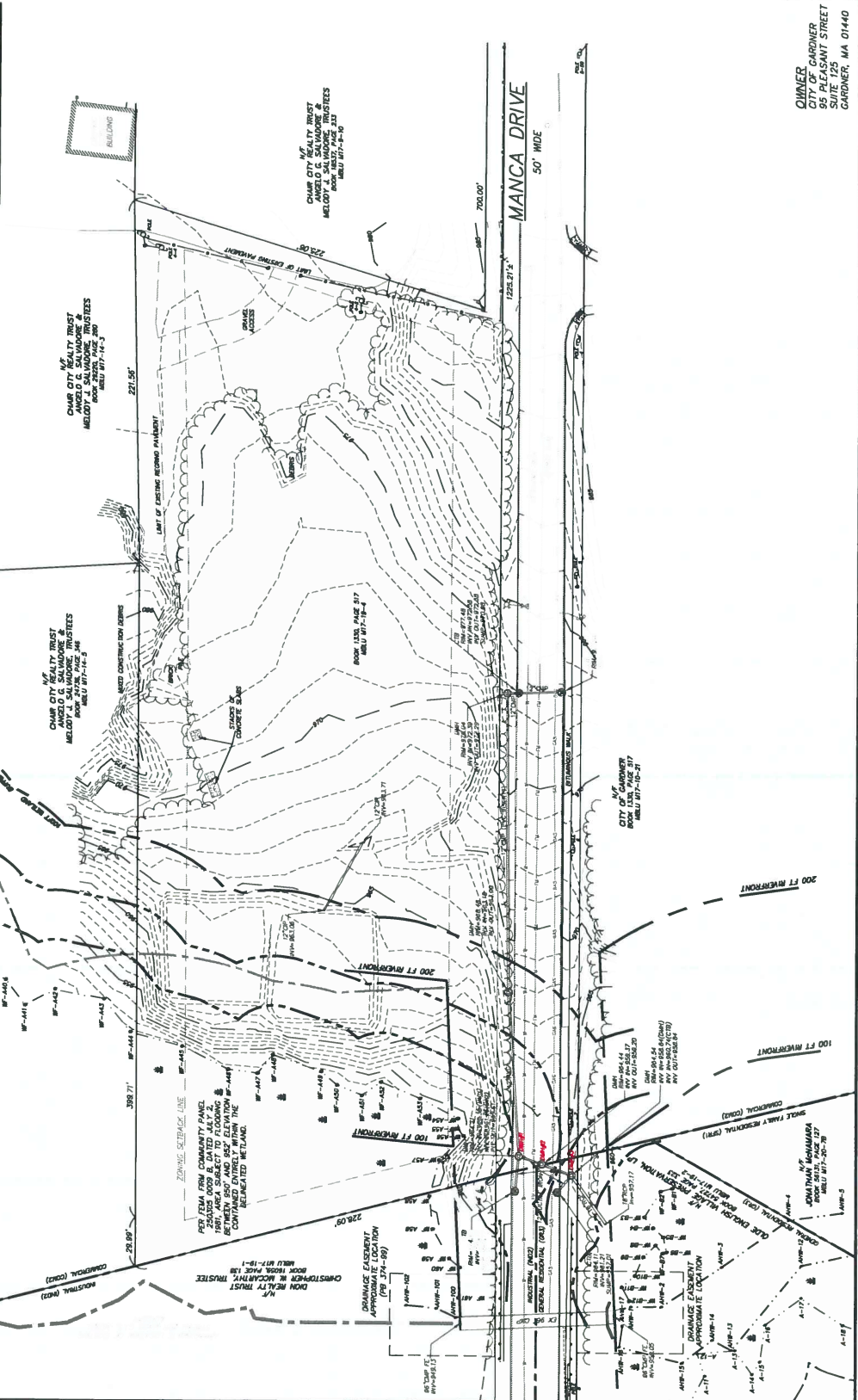
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LAND INFORMATION  
MAP SHEET NO. 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
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GENERAL NOTES:  
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3. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS PROJECT.

LAND INFORMATION  
MAP SHEET NO. 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
PROPOSED PROJECT: 104-1  
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GENERAL NOTES:  
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2. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS PROJECT.  
3. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS PROJECT.



OWNER  
GARDNER, INC.  
65 PLEASANT STREET  
SUITE 125  
GARDNER, MA 01440

PREPARED FOR:  
CITY OF GARDNER  
50 MANCA DRIVE  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS 01440  
TELE: 508-548-1144

DATE: JUNE 1, 2022  
SCALE: 1"=30'  
DRAWN: JAG  
APPROVED: JAG  
SHEET 1 OF 1

DATE: JUNE 1, 2022  
SCALE: 1"=30'  
DRAWN: JAG  
APPROVED: JAG  
SHEET 1 OF 1

DATE: JUNE 1, 2022  
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DRAWN: JAG  
APPROVED: JAG  
SHEET 1 OF 1

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DRAWN: JAG  
APPROVED: JAG  
SHEET 1 OF 1

DATE: JUNE 1, 2022  
SCALE: 1"=30'  
DRAWN: JAG  
APPROVED: JAG  
SHEET 1 OF 1