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ORDER NO. 2021-015-002
REQUEST OF THE ORDINANCE & RULES SUBCOMMITTEE

UPON THE REQUEST OF THE ORDINANCE & RULES SUBCOMMITTEE, THE CITY OF FRAMINGHAM,
THROUGH THE FRAMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, IT IS SO ORDERED:

That the City Council approves the Neighborhood Advisory Groups Ordinance as amended
and attached.

FIRST READING

YEAS: Bryant, Cannon, Case, King, Leombruno, Long, Ottaviani, Shepard, Stefanini,
Steiner, Stewart-Morales
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: All members were present in person or via teleconferencing
PASSED IN COUNCIL: MAY 4, 2021

SECOND READING

YEAS: Cannon, King, Leombruno, Long, Ottaviani, Stefanini, Steiner
NAYS: Bryant, Case, Shepard, Stewart-Morales
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: All members were present in person or via teleconferencing
PASSED IN COUNCIL: MAY 18, 2021

A True Record, Attest:

City of Framingham



The City Council of Framingham



5/21/2021

Date Approved

6/25/2021

Date Approved

Lisa Ferguson

Lisa A. Ferguson, City Clerk

Emily L. Butler, Assistant City Clerk

Yvonne M. Spicer

Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor

See attached statement.



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

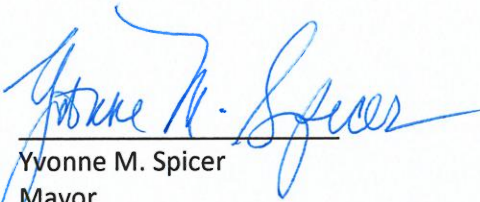
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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w www.framinghamma.gov

MEMORIAL BUILDING
150 Concord Street, Room 121
Framingham, MA 01702

June 25, 2021

I have signed the Council's order enacting the ordinance to create Neighborhood Advisory Groups because I am a strong believer that celebrating the diverse neighborhoods in our city and bringing neighborhood perspectives to many of the issues Framingham is facing will more likely result in better outcomes for the City as a whole. Our Charter encourages this through the geographic and demographic diversity goals in the Mayor's appointments to multiple-member bodies. However, in my experience neighborhood involvement and advocacy best happens organically at the grass roots level rather than by a mandated process imposed from above. Accordingly, I am concerned that the requirements set forth in the ordinance to create these groups may be too onerous, and that the end effect may be the opposite of what the Council intends, further disenfranchising some City neighborhoods that do not have the same level of robust grass roots organization as do other neighborhoods. I also continue to see provisions in this ordinance, similar to other recent ordinances enacted by the Council, that direct or order executive branch employees and which therefore are inconsistent with Article II, Section 3(b) of the Charter, and thus will comply with such directives to the extent not inconsistent with the charter.



Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor
City of Framingham, MA



Ordinance to create Neighborhood Advisory Groups

Be it ordained by the Framingham Council, as follows:

SECTION 1.

Article II of the Framingham Ordinances is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Section 33: Neighborhood Advisory Groups

33.1: Purpose

The purpose of the Neighborhood Advisory Groups (Groups) is to provide an avenue to strengthen neighborhood bonds, define its unique identity, and to build a sense of community by harnessing neighborhood expertise, experience, and energy. Our neighborhoods are the foundation of the City – homes, small businesses, schools, recreational facilities, and places of worship all connect neighbors together to build a community. These Groups intend to expand self-government and provide neighborhoods with a voice in preserving and promoting a healthy, vibrant, and thriving community.

33.2: Neighborhood Areas

33.2.1 Establishment

The council may, upon petition of area residents, establish one or more neighborhood areas to represent or provide services that the Neighborhood Advisory Group (Group) is authorized to undertake as follows:

(a) A petition may be submitted to the council requesting the establishment of a Neighborhood Advisory Group. The petition must be signed by five (5) percent of the registered voters residing in the area, but not fewer than 150 such residents. The petition shall describe the general territorial boundaries of the proposed service area and the Group's name.

(b), the council shall submit the petition for verification of signatures to the City Clerk upon receipt of the petition. Within 30 days following verification, the council shall hold a public hearing on the question of whether or not the requested neighborhood area shall be established. The hearing may be adjourned from time to time but shall be completed within 60 days of the date of commencement.

(c) Within 30 days following the public hearing, the council shall approve or disapprove the establishment of the requested neighborhood area.

(d) Approval of a Neighborhood Advisory Group may contain amendments or modifications of the area's boundaries, functions, or the size of the Neighborhood Advisory Group as set forth in the petition.