

SPONSOR: Janet Venecz  
Councilwoman At-Large

and the entire Common Council

RESOLUTION NO. R10

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE CITY OF HAMMOND'S SUIT TO DECLARE THE LAKE COUNTY JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND TO ELECT JUDGES IN LAKE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hammond is a party to a certain lawsuit entitled City of Hammond, et al. v. Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission and the State of Indiana, currently pending in the United States District Court, Hammond Division; and

**WHEREAS**, the suit properly details the different systems in Indiana whereby eighty-eight (88) counties elect their judges and four (4) counties, Lake included, have judges selected through a process that includes a Judicial Nominating Commission (comprised of members, some of whom are appointed by the Governor) selecting and sending nominees to the Governor, who then chooses from those nominees those persons who will be judges in those four (4) counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the four (4) counties that have Judicial Nominating Commissions comprise the most diverse counties in the state (Allen, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph), whereas the 88 counties that elect their judges do not have nearly as large minority populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the allegations in the suit set forth violations of the Federal Voting Rights Act as well as equal protection violations and other violations of the Indiana State Constitution amongst other allegations; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens of Hammond and Lake County should be treated like other counties in the state that elect their judges;

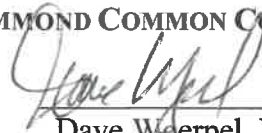
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Hammond Common Council, as follows:

1. The Common Council of the City of Hammond hereby supports the lawsuit filed by the City of Hammond that seeks to declare the Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission unconstitutional and further supports Lake County residents being treated the same as the other 88 counties in the state that elect their judges.

2. This Resolution shall remain in full force and effect after its adoption by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

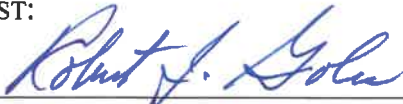
HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL

By:



Dave Woerpel, President

ATTEST:



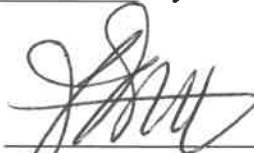
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

PRESENTED BY ME, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Hammond to the Mayor of said City for his approval on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.



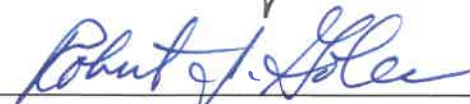
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

The foregoing Resolution No. R10, consisting of two (2) typewritten pages including this page, was Approved by the Mayor on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.



Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.  
Mayor, City of Hammond

Passed by the Common Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2022, and Approved by the Mayor on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk