

**RESOLUTION NO. ~~8~~18**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAMMOND,  
INDIANA REJECTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE  
HAMMOND FIRE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INDIANA CODE 36-8-  
3.5-5.5 AND ALLOWING THE MEMBERSHIP TO VOTE ON THE ISSUE IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH INDIANA CODE 36-8-3.5-4**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5, an eligible fire department will establish a merit system for its members effective January 1, 2025, unless, not later than December 31, 2024, the legislative body of the governmental unit adopts a resolution to reject the establishment of a merit system which must also be approved by a majority of the active full-time, paid members of said fire department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hammond Fire Department ('HFD') is an eligible fire department as defined by Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(b) with at least twelve (12) active full-time, paid members providing service to a geographic area that has resident population of at least twenty thousand (20,000) people; and

**WHEREAS**, Indiana Code 36-8-3-2 gives a safety board of a city the power to administer fire departments except as provided for by Indiana Code 36-8-3-5; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Common Council of the City of Hammond to allow the Hammond Board of Public Works and Safety to continue to administer all matters relating to the HFD as allowed by statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Hammond now wishes to reject the establishment of a merit system, and allow the issue to be voted on by the active full-time, paid members of the department as set forth in Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-4;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Hammond, that the Council rejects the establishment of a merit system as required by Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(e) to allow the active full-time, paid members of the department to vote on the issue.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-4, the active full-time, paid members of the HFD shall now hold a meeting to conduct a vote upon whether to reject the establishment of a merit system as follows:

1. A vote shall take place within sixty (60) days after the adoption of this Resolution.
2. The Board of Public Works and Safety shall give all active members of the HFD no less than three (3) weeks' notice that a meeting will be held to conduct the vote to approve or reject the merit system.
3. The notice shall be given by posting it in prominent places in all HFD stations and the notice must designate the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
4. A copy of this Resolution shall be distributed to each HFD active member at least one (1) week before the date of the meeting.
5. Only active full-time, paid members of the HFD may attend the meeting and vote.
6. One HFD active member shall be selected as chair of the meeting.
7. All voting must be by secret written ballot.

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8. Any other procedures for holding the meeting may be determined by the Board of Public Works and Safety and shall be posted in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Resolution.
9. If a majority of the active members of the HFD vote to accept a merit system, the merit system will be established on January 1, 2025 in accordance with the provisions and requirements outlined in Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-. If a majority of the active members of the HFD vote to reject the merit system, a merit system will not be established and the current status quo shall remain.

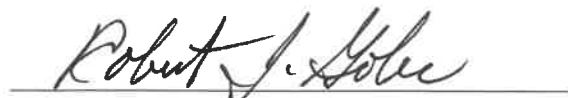
**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Hammond that this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council, signing by the President thereof, and approval by the Mayor.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** by the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana, this 15th day of October, 2024.



Scott Rakos, President  
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk  
City of Hammond, Indiana

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**PRESENTED BY ME**, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Hammond, Indiana, to  
the Mayor, for approval and signature, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk  
City of Hammond, Indiana

The foregoing Resolution No. R18 consisting of four (4) typewritten pages,  
including this page, was **APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME**, the undersigned Mayor of the  
City of Hammond, Indiana, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.



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

**PASSED** by the Common Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024 and  
Approved by the Mayor on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk,  
Hammond, Indiana