



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

CHARTER RESOLUTION NO. 177

A CHARTER RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND AMENDING ARTICLE 400 “ADMINISTRATION” OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF LAUREL TO REFLECT THE CREATION OF A NEW DEPARTMENT ENTITLED THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (CREM) AND ADDING SECTION 469 “DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Sponsored by the President, at the request of the Administration.

WHEREAS, the City Administrator did an in-depth review of the Office of Emergency Management in the City Administrator’s Office, Laurel Helping Hands and Laurel’s Multiservice Center, all currently under the direction of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The review found that many of the services provided, or to be provided, by those City agencies overlap, and that those services can be more efficiently and effectively provided if combined under one department; and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator has determined that by combining the services provided, or to be provided, by these agencies, the activities and responsibilities of each can be better monitored and supervised, there can be better security of confidential records, and lines of communication can be better and more effectively supported, all of which allows the City to better serve its residents and the greater Laurel community; and

WHEREAS, each of the City agencies noted above provide the City’s residents and the greater Laurel community with services that are sufficiently similar in their purposes to allow them to be combined under one department, with one director of that department, to help to ensure that the goals of each of the affected agencies do not overlap, and can be more effectively and efficiently achieved; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, the Administration proposes the creation of the **Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM)**, to combine the functions of the current Office of Emergency Management, which is now under the Office of the City Administrator, and Laurel Helping Hands and the City of Laurel Multiservice Center, both of which are now under the Department of Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the **Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM)** will be better able to provide the support and services currently offered by these agencies, resulting in a safer, healthier, and stronger community to promote growth, resilience, self-sufficiency and emergency preparedness to City residents and the greater Laurel community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe that it would be in the best interests of the City to amend Article 400 of the City Charter, as set forth herein, to accurately reflect the existing Departments of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 400 of the City of Laurel Charter be amended to add Section. 469, to be entitled, “**Director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management**,” as follows:

CHARTER AMENDMENT:

Section. 469. Director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency.

(a) There shall be a Director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management that will also serve as the emergency manager appointed by the Mayor, subject to the confirmation of the City Council. His or her compensation shall be determined by the operating budget. The director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and shall devote his or her full time and attention to the duties and responsibilities of this office.

(b) The Director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management shall be responsible, under the direction of the City Administrator, for organizing, supervising, and administering that department, including any specific duties and responsibilities as directed by the Mayor and City Council.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date of adoption of this Charter Resolution is the ____ day of ____, 2023, and that the amendment to the Charter of the City as herein adopted, shall be and become effective on the ____ day of ____, 2023 unless on or before the ____ day of ____, 2023, a Petition for Referendum on this Charter Resolution is filed in writing with the Mayor or City Administrator, pursuant to the provision of Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective on the ____ day of ____, 2023.

PASSED this ____ day of ____, 2023.

SARA A. GREEN, CMC
Clerk to the City Council

BRENCIS D. SMITH
President of the City Council

APPROVED this ____ day of ____, 2023.

CRAIG A. MOE
Mayor