

RESOLUTION No. 2021-

***RELATIVE TO SUPPORT FOR THE NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD
“INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE”***

BY:

Council Chairman Kenny Tompkins
Council Member William Kennedy
Council Member Frank Soda
Council Member John Spanbauer
Council Member Christopher Voccio

WHEREAS, the Niagara Falls Water Board has undertaken an effort described as its “Infrastructure Initiative”; and

WHEREAS, the said Initiative includes a “Request for Federal Infrastructure Funding”; and

WHEREAS, the said request details the need for funding the conversion and modification of the Water Board’s Waste Water Treatment Plant (“WWTP”), from a “physical-chemical process” using activated carbon filtration, to an up-to-date biological process; and

WHEREAS, the WWTP is the largest remaining physical-chemical treatment plant in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the WWTP is inefficient and obsolete, as evidenced by the incident in July 2017 where “black water” infiltrated into the lower Niagara River, threatening harm to the river and Great Lakes waterways; and

WHEREAS, that incident cast unwanted attention upon one of the world’s great natural wonders, to wit: our falls of Niagara, on both sides of the international boarder; and

WHEREAS, the day-to-day operation of the said WWTP has become increasingly more costly, with the one recent example being an extraordinary increase in the cost of Sodium Hypochlorite from \$0.359 per gallon to \$1.18 per gallon, resulting in a yearly, and unsustainable, cost increase of \$6,059,000; and

WHEREAS, with the estimated cost of the conversion and modification exceeding the sum of \$200 million, it is obvious that without substantial support from New York State and the United States government, the project is not economically feasible; and

Kennedy _____ **Soda** _____ **Spanbauer** _____ **Voccio** _____ **Tompkins** _____

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2021, Mayor Robert Restaino indicted his support of the WWTP “Infrastructure Initiative” in a direct meeting with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and urging federal assistance toward its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also recognizes the significance of the initiative described above and wishes to publicly express our support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Niagara Falls City Council hereby formally expresses its support for the Niagara Falls Water Board’s “Infrastructure Initiative” and urges the State of New York and the federal government to do all in their power to provide adequate funds for the conversion and modification of the Niagara Falls Water Board’s Waste Water Treatment Plant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk provide copies of this resolution be to United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. House of Representatives Member Brian Higgins, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Robert Ortt, State Assemblyman Angelo Morinello and to such other elected and appointed officials as the Niagara Falls Water Board may deem appropriate.