

This meeting is being held in accordance to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order and other Federal and State Orders that impact in-person attendance at public meetings, if applicable orders expire or are revoked before January 20, 2021, this will be an in-person meeting in City Hall, please check our website and Facebook for updates. Please submit your public comment via email commoncouncil@albanyny.gov or on our [website](#) by **January 20, 2021 12pm**. These comments will be shared with members and/or read for the record at the meeting. The meeting will be held using Zoom and streamed through the Albany Common Council's Facebook. To stream this video please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/albany.commoncouncil>. If we experience any technical difficulties on Facebook, the video will be streamed to [YouTube](#).



COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Richard Conti, Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 20, 2021

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

TOPIC(S) OF DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1.11.21R

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL TO ENCOURAGING A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON CHANGES TO THE FLAG OF THE CITY OF ALBANY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2.11.21R

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW ABSENTEE BALLOTS TO BE COUNTED EARLIER

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: YES

Council Member Anane introduced the following:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1.11.21R

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL TO ENCOURAGING A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON CHANGES TO THE FLAG OF THE CITY OF ALBANY

WHEREAS, the current flag of Albany has remained unchanged for the last 111 years; and

WHEREAS, the current flag of Albany is based on the Prince's Flag of the Netherlands, which has been co-opted by white supremacist groups and shares similarities to the flag of apartheid-era South Africa; and

WHEREAS, many residents have noted the inherent hypocrisy of being a city that celebrates diversity while displaying a flag that seemingly harkens back to a time in our city's history where white supremacy was an acceptable norm; and

WHEREAS, it has been noted by critics that the current flag does not fully adhere to the principles of good flag design which, according to the North American Vexillological Association, calls for a flag to use no more than three basic colors, contain no lettering or seals, be distinctive from other flags, and be so simple that a child could draw it from memory; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Albany Common Council hereby encourages a community conversation for a new flag of the City of Albany which incorporates the basic principles of good flag design and reflects the present values of the City of Albany.

To: Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk
From: John-Raphael Pichardo, Esq., Research Counsel
**Re: Request for Common Council Legislation
Supporting Memorandum**
Date: December 16, 2020

SPONSOR Council Member Anane

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1.11.21.R

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE A COMMISSION TO STUDY CHANGES TO THE FLAG OF CITY OF ALBANY

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

To authorize a commission to study changes to the flag of the City of Albany

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW

Many residents have noted the inherent hypocrisy of being a city that celebrates diversity while displaying a flag that seemingly harkens back to a time in our city's history where white supremacy was an acceptable norm. This legislation would start the process of changing the flag.

FISCAL IMPACT(S)

None.

Council Member Love introduced the following:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2.11.21R

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW ABSENTEE BALLOTS TO BE COUNTED EARLIER

WHEREAS, New York officials made it easier to apply for and receive an absentee ballot, creating, essentially, an end to excuses to get one, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, more than two million ballots were requested this year. As a result, the outcome of elections for Congress and the State Legislature were far from definitive nearly a week after Election Day – given that absentee ballots could change the final outcome; and

WHEREAS, we have to address the fact that now, with absentee voting being over 25% of the vote, we are in a new world and have to update how we count mail-in ballots; and

WHEREAS, six weeks after the June primary, two congressional races remained undecided and vast numbers of ballots had yet to be counted; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers are entitled to know the results of elections expeditiously, regardless of how many absentee ballots are utilized. This is especially true during a state emergency; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Albany hereby calls upon the New York State Legislature to enact legislation that would allow absentee ballots be counted earlier.

To: Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk
From: John-Raphael Pichardo, Esq., Research Counsel
Re: Common Council Legislation
Supporting Memorandum
Date: December 22, 2020

SPONSOR Council Member Love

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2.11.20R

TITLE

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW ABSENTEE BALLOTS TO BE COUNTED EARLIER

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

Calling on the legislature to enact legislation that would allow absentee ballots be counted earlier.

FISCAL IMPACT(S)

None.