

1 THE CITY OF CRANSTON

2
3 **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

4 **AUTHORIZING A REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A REDISTRICTING**
5 **PLAN FOR THE SIX WARDS OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON**

6
7 **No.**

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9 *Passed:*

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12 Christopher G. Paplauskas, Council President

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14 *Resolved, That,*

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16 **WHEREAS**, population figures will soon be made available from the 2020 federal
17 decennial Census; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, the citizens of the City of Cranston are constitutionally entitled to equal and
20 proportional representation on the Cranston City Council and Cranston School Committee; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, redistricting of Wards (changes in Ward boundaries) may be necessary in
23 order to provide equal and proportional representation on the Cranston City Council and Cranston
24 School Committee, contingent upon the adoption of new state district lines that may first be adopted
25 by the Rhode Island General Assembly.

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27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Honorable Cranston City Council:

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29 1. Creates a Redistricting Commission and appoints the three (3) regular members of the
30 Cranston Board of Canvassers as its members. It shall be the purpose and responsibility of
31 the Commission to develop and present to the full Council, at a special or regular meeting
32 following the adoption of a state redistricting plan by the General Assembly, a plan to
33 redistrict the six wards of the City. The plan shall comply with all requirements of the
34 Constitution of the United States, of the Rhode Island Constitution, of the Rhode Island
35 General Laws, and of the City of Cranston Home Rule Charter, and the Commission shall
36 recognize and be informed by pertinent or applicable federal legislation and court precedent.
37 Districts shall be as nearly equal in population as possible, and in no case shall a ward have
38 a population that varies by more than five percent (5%) from the Target Population, as
39 determined by the total City population reported in the 2020 federal decennial census
40 divided by six. To the extent practicable, districts shall be composed of contiguous territory
41 and shall be configured in such a way as to avoid the creation of precinct-level voting
42 districts of fewer than one thousand (1,000) potential voters, and, in accordance with R.I.
43 Gen. Laws § 17-11-1 et seq., shall have no more than three thousand (3,000) voters; and
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2. The City shall be divided into six Wards in such a manner that each Ward shall: (1) consist of a compact and contiguous portion of the City; (2) respect the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or local communities of interest in a manner which minimizes their division to the extent possible; and (3) be bounded by major roads or natural features to the extent possible. The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of Wards. Wards shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party; and
3. Upon the final adoption of a new redistricting plan approved by the Cranston City Council and enacted in state law, the Cranston Board of Canvassers shall cause to be mailed to all registered voters of the City notice of their district number and regularly assigned polling place, and that the Board of Canvassers shall make final copies of new Cranston voting district maps available electronically via the City’s website, and shall maintain them, until such time as they are amended, for open public inspection or purchase for a nominal fee in the Canvassing Department; and
4. The approval of a redistricting plan by the Cranston City Council shall concurrently memorialize the Rhode Island General Assembly to validate the same.

Sponsored by: Council President Paplauskas
Referred to Ordinance Committee Feb. 11, 2021