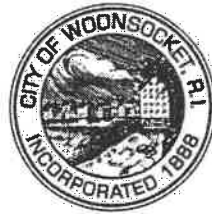


# City of Woonsocket Rhode Island



January 10, A.D. 2022

## RESOLUTION

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ZAP

- WHEREAS,** *Operation ZAP* was organized in 1972; and
- WHEREAS,** *Operation ZAP* began the environmental movement in the Blackstone River Valley; and
- WHEREAS,** the Blackstone River became the first industrialized river and first polluted riverway in the Western Hemisphere; and
- WHEREAS,** Samuel Slater, on the Blackstone River in 1790, launched *the American Industrial Revolution*, and initiated economic freedom for the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the use of the Blackstone River's waterpower offered the strength needed to power hundreds of textile mills along its 48-mile length; and
- WHEREAS,** these mills employed thousands of people that arrived from all over the world, in search of their *American Dream*; and
- WHEREAS,** the Blackstone River, which winds its way throughout the City of Woonsocket (the "City"), heavily influenced the physical character and development of the City. The power contained in the rapid descent of the river, especially at Woonsocket Falls, led to the clustering of mill villages in the area which eventually coalesced to become the Town, and then the City of Woonsocket; and
- WHEREAS,** while this economic opportunity catapulted the Blackstone Valley businesses into a world economy for almost 200 years, it also left a legacy of environmental degradation; and
- WHEREAS,** this environmental condition has denied ten generations the use of the Blackstone River for drinking, swimming or eating its aquatic life; and

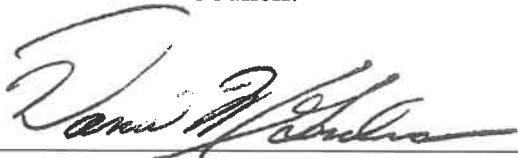
- WHEREAS,** it has taken more than five decades to bring back the health of the landscape along the Blackstone River; and
- WHEREAS,** the mission of *Operation ZAP* in 1972 was to clean the Blackstone River making it possible for future generations to enjoy living along a clean river way; and
- WHEREAS,** *Operation ZAP* coincided with the founding of *Earth Day* and in the United States Congress' passage of the *Clean Air* and *Clean Water Acts*, and the founding of *Save the Bay*, which is dedicated to protecting and improving our Narragansett Bay and all the waters that flow into it; and
- WHEREAS,** *Operation ZAP* was conceived and organized by David M. Rosser of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the then President of the *Blackstone River Watershed Association*; and
- WHEREAS,** on September 9, 1972 Mr. Rosser, with the help of hundreds of community leaders and businesses, organized more than 10,000 people to remove tons of refuse from the banks of the Blackstone River and begin the creation of riverfront parks; and
- WHEREAS,** since that time the Blackstone River has seen millions of dollars of federal, state and local money spent on continuing the clean-up efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** since that time the Blackstone River has become cleaner for fish and wildlife; and
- WHEREAS,** the *Blackstone Valley Tourism Council* is organizing an effort, with dozens of local volunteer groups and individuals, with the goal of organizing 10,001 people, to celebrate the people and groups that have helped clean the Blackstone River; and
- WHEREAS,** dozens of people have worked to develop a Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment that points to a future where residents will be able to eat the fish, drink the water and swim in the Blackstone River; and
- WHEREAS,** it is time to be a part of this environmental movement, this time Blackstone River Watershed-wide, to clean up and green up the 25 Blackstone River Watershed communities from Worcester, Massachusetts to Providence, Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS,** the David Rosser family, is working with the local organizers of *Operation ZAP 50* to ensure the environmental legacy is continued; and
- WHEREAS,** this will be a time to celebrate the people who worked on *Operation ZAP* in 1972 and the organizations and people who continue the work to bring the Blackstone River back to health.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The *City of Woonsocket* joins *Operation ZAP 50*, to be with the 10,001 people that will assemble on August 27, 2022 to clean the Watershed and will assemble again on September 10, 2022 at the *Old Slater Mill National Historic Site* in Pawtucket, the base camp of Dave Rosser's headquarters for *Operation ZAP* in 1972 to celebrate.

**Section 2.** The *City of Woonsocket* commits its leadership, necessary resources, and participation to assist in mobilizing its citizens to "turn out" to join the 50th Anniversary of *Operation ZAP*. We call upon all to honor the work performed in 1972, honor the groups and agencies for the past and current ongoing efforts, and ensure that *the Operation ZAP* of 1972 goals are realized.

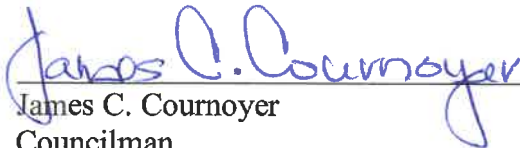
**Section 3.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage by the City Council.



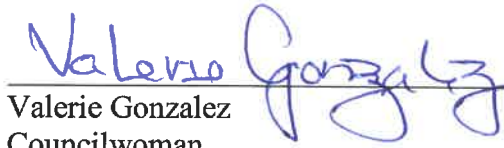
Daniel M. Gendron  
City Council President



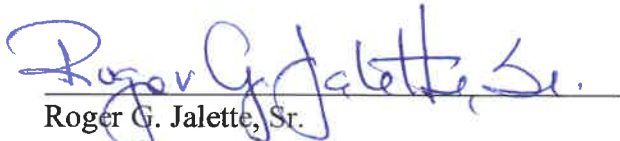
John F. Ward  
City Council Vice President



James C. Cournoyer  
Councilman



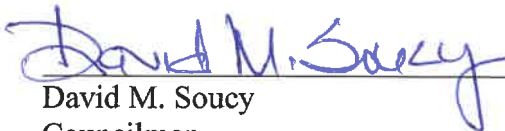
Valerie Gonzalez  
Councilwoman



Roger G. Jalette, Sr.  
Councilman



Denise D. Sierra  
Councilwoman



David M. Soucy  
Councilman

IN CITY COUNCIL January 10, 2022 - Read by title and passed unanimously.