

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED

**1.11.11R RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL CONGRATULATING
COURTNEY BURKE ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN U.S. WOMEN'S
HOCKEY**

**2.11.11R RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL REQUESTING
STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR AN INCREASE IN
VITAL RECORDS FEES UNDER NYS PUBLIC HEALTH LAW
SECTION 4173(3)**

Council Member Rosenzweig introduced the following:

Resolution Number 1.11.11R

**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL CONGRATULATING
COURTNEY BURKE ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN U.S. WOMEN'S HOCKEY**

WHEREAS, Albany native Courtney Burke began playing hockey at age 6, playing on all-boys teams locally and around the Northeast and Canada; and

WHEREAS, she was eventually recruited by the prestigious Minnesota hockey prep school, Shattuck-St. Mary's. During the 2008-09 season as a freshman playing defense, Courtney scored nine goals and had 19 assists. The team had 40 wins and seven losses; and

WHEREAS, this past April she led her Shattuck-St. Mary's team to the 2010 USA Hockey Tier I 16 & Under National Championship, ending among the tournament leaders in scoring; and

WHEREAS, she was selected to compete in the U.S. Women's Under 18 Select Team that swept Canada in the three game 2010 Women's series in Lake Placid, New York. This was the first time the U.S. swept Canada in the four year history of the event; and

WHEREAS, Courtney was recently selected to play on the U.S. Women's National Under 18 Team that will compete in the 2011 International Ice Hockey Federation World Women's U18 Championship set for January 1-8 in Stockholm Sweden.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Albany congratulates Courtney Burke on her outstanding achievements in the sport of women's hockey and wishes her continued success in the sport and in reaching her goal of competing in the Olympics.

TO: John Marsolais, City Clerk
FROM: John Rosenzweig, Council Member
RE: Request for Common Council Legislation
Supporting Memorandum
DATE: December 23, 2010

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1.11.11R

TITLE: RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL CONGRATULATING COURTNEY BURKE ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN U.S. WOMEN'S HOCKEY

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION: To offer the congratulations of the Common Council to someone with significant achievements.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW: To offer official recognition.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

Council Member Conti offered the following:

Resolution Number 2.11.11R

RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR AN INCREASE IN VITAL RECORDS FEES UNDER NYS PUBLIC HEALTH LAW SECTION 4173(3)

WHEREAS, many cities and villages in New York State, including the City of Albany, employ a Vital Records Registrar who issues birth and death certificates; and

WHEREAS, historically, the statutory amount under NYS Public Health Law section 4173(3) which may be charged by local offices for vital statistics documents was equal to the \$10 charge imposed by the state for similar records; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the state's fee under Public Health Law section 4174(2) was raised to \$30 without a corresponding change for municipalities; and

WHEREAS, since then, the State Legislature has enacted similar increases for certain counties including Monroe, Onondaga, Chemung and Tompkins, and the City of Oswego. However, the remaining local governments are prohibited from charging more than \$10 for these documents; and

WHEREAS, allowing municipalities to increase their fee to an amount not exceeding that allowed for state charges could generate significant non-property tax revenue, thereby reducing the reliance on the local property tax; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that cities could receive an additional \$100,000 to \$600,000 annually (depending upon the number of documents issued) if they were permitted to charge the \$30 fee; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany currently receives approximately \$240,000 annually in revenue from vital statistics record fees which are currently capped at \$10; and

WHEREAS, even a modest increase in the fee could provide significant additional revenue to the City of Albany helping to relieve burdens on property tax payers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany Common Council requests an amendment to NYS Public Health Law section 4173(3) that will allow the City of Albany, through the Common Council, to set a fee for vital statistics records not to exceed the amount allowed for state charges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to: the Majority and Minority Leadership of the NYS Senate; Senator Neil Breslin; the Speaker of the Assembly; the Minority Leader of the Assembly; and, Assembly Members Ron Canestrari and Jack McEneny.

**SUPPORTING MEMORANDUM
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2.11.11.R
Introduced at January 3, 2011 Council Meeting**

TITLE:

RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR AN INCREASE IN VITAL RECORDS FEES UNDER NYS PUBLIC HEALTH LAW SECTION 4173(3)

SPONSOR:

Council Member Conti

PURPOSE:

To enhance non-property tax related revenue for the City of Albany.

SUMMARY:

Requests State legislation to allow the City of Albany to set enhanced fees for vital statistics records up to the same amount as the NYS Department of Health for the issuance of such records.

JUSTIFICATION:

The current local fee for vital statistics records under NYS Public Health Law section 4173(3) is \$10 and has not been increased since 1991. By contrast, the charge authorized for the NYS Department of Health for such records under NYS Public Health Law section 4174(2) is \$30.

Local governments have limited revenue sources, many of which are currently experiencing declines as a result of their economic sensitivity. Consequently, it is more important than ever that the state find no-cost ways to enhance local governments' ability to generate additional resources.

Enactment of State legislation was recommended in the Common Council 2011 Budget Resolution 113.121.10R.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

If State authorizing legislation is enacted, it would authorize the Albany Common Council to enact a Vital Statistics Records fee up to the fee amount authorized for the NYS Department of Health. Even a modest increase of \$5 (as was enacted by the City of Oswego) could potentially generate \$100,000 in additional revenue.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Immediate.