

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO.: C-7138

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MR. IMPASTATO

PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION C-7080 TO INSTITUTE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF THE 22nd JUDICIAL COURT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THE BUDGET PROCESS FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS, OFFICES AND AGENCIES RECEIVING FUNDING FROM ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT AND AGENCIES THE COUNCIL APPROVES BALLOT ITEMS FOR, WHICH SHALL BE CALLED THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESOURCE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Home Rule Charter states ‘an act of the council having the force of law shall be by ordinance’ and ‘an act requiring an ordinance shall include ... those which ... levy taxes, assessments, and charges, adopt the operating budget and capital improvement budget and appropriate funds for the Parish government, provide raising revenue, and regulate the rate or other charges for service by the Parish government’; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Council approves the Parish budget each year which includes the operations of Parish administrative departments, as well as the coroner’s office, jail operations, library, COAST/STARC, 22nd Judicial District Court, Assessor’s Office, Clerk of Court, and the District Attorney of the 22nd Judicial Court; and

WHEREAS, Parish government allocated funds to LSU Co-op Extension Services, State Environmental Health, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Registrar of Voters, and Ward Courts in the 2025 budget process; and

WHEREAS, the Parish has a responsibility to the taxpayers to ensure all Parish Government funds are allocated and spent efficiently and effectively. Therefore, the Parish Council desires to have more data during the budgeting process, as well as an expert’s insight into budget requests for each department and entity receiving funding from St. Tammany Parish Government; and

WHEREAS, through the budget process, the Parish will look at forecasting future needs and revenue to identify measures for tax reform in St. Tammany to safeguard the future of St. Tammany; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Council has the authority to approve ballot measures for local government agencies whose revenue does not flow through Parish Government and desires to learn more about the financial health of the organizations; and

WHEREAS, The District Attorney will not be a “member” of the TRAC committee for the purpose of making formal recommendations to the Parish Counsel. The partnership role with the District Attorney is limited to the District Attorney, and/or members of his staff, providing resources on an as needed basis to advise, investigate, collect data and conduct analysis; and

WHEREAS, the initiative shall be called the Transparency and Resource Accountability Committee (“TRAC”) and the Council Chair will select the committee members; and

WHEREAS, working together to improve financial transparency continues to be a top priority of Parish Government, with the Parish President offering full support of TRAC and its goals of examining all agencies’ finances and identifying inefficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Council will establish guidelines and procedures for the selection, monitoring and after action processes.

THEREFORE, THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES to establish the Transparency and Resource Accountability Committee, in partnership with the District Attorney’s Office, to acquire additional expertise during the budget process so to amplify the Council’s oversight of taxpayer funds.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE; THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED ON THE 7TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2025, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

JOE IMPASTATO, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK