RESOLUTION NO. 6095-23

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNION CITY AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 5703-21, THE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED COUNCIL NORMS

WHEREAS, during the City Council’s annual retreat on August 13, 2020, the City Council agreed to seven Council Norms and accordingly adopted Resolution No. 5703-21 on January 12, 2021 to help them to be most effective as a policy group and to set the tone for future City Councils; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and desire of the City Council to conduct its business in an orderly and fair manner; and

WHEREAS, there are certain basic rights of due process and opportunity to address issues with equity, fairness and equal protection of the law; and

WHEREAS, certain parliamentary procedures have been found to be useful in order to assure that the communication and process of government are fair, reasonable and just; and

WHEREAS, the City has a duty to proceed with the business of government in an efficient and orderly fashion; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish uniform norms in order to accomplish these goals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that these norms are guidelines intended to reflect common sense; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to conduct itself consistent with these norms during City Council meetings, at public events, on social media, and in other similar venues; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a Special Meeting on February 16, 2023 to discuss governance, where it reviewed the previously adopted norms and affirmed its existing applicability; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also indicated its desire for additional language related to citywide governance in light of the City’s transition to election by districts and the amendments set forth incorporate such language.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Union City hereby approves the amendments to the Council Norms and agree to comply with the following:

1. We conduct ourselves in a professional manner, treat everyone with respect, and act with high integrity, always putting the interests of the City of Union City ahead of
self-interests in accordance with our code of ethics.

2. We respect the Council-Manager form of government, and do not interfere with the City Manager’s role or any professional duties of City staff.

3. We recognize that matters of confidential nature are to be kept private and undisclosed.

4. We respect each other’s opinions and are supportive of each other’s work advocating for the City, and we ensure that all voices are heard. We do not criticize others for having a different point of view, and we agree to disagree respectfully.

5. We understand that the City Council acts as a body, all members are equal, and policy direction is only given by a majority vote of the City Council. Once a decision is made, all members of the City Council must respect the City Council’s direction.

6. We will be prepared for City Council meetings and ask our questions of the City Manager in advance so we can avoid surprising City staff at meetings.

7. We do not criticize City staff publicly or to others and will refrain from directing them. Instead, we will take our concerns and questions privately to the City Manager.

8. We will govern on an at-large basis, although elected by districts. We will maintain a citywide perspective and consider the needs and interests of the entire community.

9. We will continue to allocate resources based on long-term strategic priorities and efforts, with consideration of citywide service levels and financial capacity.

10. We understand customer service is the priority and each member of the City Council will help constituents regardless of the district in which they reside or from which a Councilmember themselves is elected.

May these Council Norms be administered and enforced in the following manner:

1. Councilmembers have the primary responsibility to assure that ethical standards are understood and met by the Council, and that the public can continue to have full confidence in the integrity of government.

2. The Mayor and the Council have the responsibility to intervene when actions of its members are in violation of Council Norms.

3. The City Council can review and revise the Council Norms as needed.

4. During City Council discussions, deliberations, and proceedings, the Mayor is designated with the primary responsibility to ensure that Councilmembers adhere to the Council Norms.
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Union City at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of March 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Patiño, Sakakihara, Wang, Vice Mayor Singh, Mayor Dutra-Vernaci
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED:
Carol Dutra-Vernaci
Mayor

ATTEST:
Anna M. Brown
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Kristopher J Kokotaylo
City Attorney