AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A POLICY WITHIN THE CITY OF TRENTON CITY CLERK'S OFFICE REGARDING DETERMINATIONS OF RESIDENCY FOR CANDIDATES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, the Council wants to ensure there are no difficulties or issues raised concerning the residency of Candidates and Elected Officials for the City of Trenton Elected Offices; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain public confidence in the integrity of the election process and to assist the City Clerk in the discharge of his statutory duties with respect to determinations of residency, the City Council has determined it necessary and advisable to authorize and approve a Policy adopted by the City Clerk to facilitate such determinations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that state statute provides the qualifications for candidacy for such offices, and expressly states that the intent of this Ordinance is not to attempt to change or modify such qualifications, but only to provide guidance to the public and assist the City Clerk's function to determine such primary residency;

NOW IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Trenton as follows:

- 1. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be only applicable to candidates for and individuals holding the positions of Mayor; Council Member at Large; and Ward Council Member of the City of Trenton.
- 2. Every candidate for the position of Mayor, Council Member at Large and Ward Council Member shall, at the time of filing of their petitions, fill out and sign an Affidavit in a form prepared by the City Clerk stating their current residency and the length of time of such residency."
- 3. In the event a challenge to the residency of any candidate for any of the aforesaid offices is brought before the City Clerk, and to assist the City Clerk in the determination of such residency issue, such candidate may be requested to provide any or all of the following documentation:

ORDINANCE

- a. Copies of utility bills; a properly redacted Income Tax Return; a valid New Jersey Driver's License; a recorded Deed; an executed Lease or Rental Agreement; a properly redacted bank statement; or such other documentation which in the Clerk's judgement and discretion will assist in his determinations of the primary resident of such candidate.
- b. For candidates who do not have any of the aforesaid documents, the Clerk may promulgate an appropriate City of Trenton Candidate Affidavit form in which the candidate may be requested to set forth the reason(s) why no such documents exist.
- c. Any individual who submits and false, altered, or fraudulent document to the City Clerk as set forth above shall be subject to all penalties provided by law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that since State law requires all City of Trenton Elected Officials to maintain their residency in the City as to the Mayor and Council Member at Large, and in the City and respective Ward as to the Ward Council Members, any such Elected Official who changes the residency they maintained on the date of their last election shall notify the City Clerk of said change within five (5) days thereof, with evidence of the new primary residence; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect pursuant to NJSA 40:69A-181 and other applicable law.

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