

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

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**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE**  
**COUNCIL**  
No.

- WHEREAS, the 2017 ‘Newport Comprehensive Land Use Plan’ was developed based on the State of Rhode Island’s mandated topics such as land use, economic development, housing, community services, transportation, natural resources and sustainability. The plan, a well outlined blueprint for future actions, was created after 2 years of public discussion and broad resident input led by qualified consultants. Multiple iterations were combed through to ensure the plan provided the best, most fair outcomes for all Newport residents; AND
- WHEREAS, the ‘North End Urban Plan’ was added to the City’s ‘Comprehensive Land Use Plan’ by the City Council in 2021, the plan, again incorporated broad public input led by qualified consultants and lays the foundation for ‘smart, equitable growth’ in the City’s North End; AND
- WHEREAS, the 2017 ‘Open Space Plan’ helped create a vision for long term sustainability and stewardship of parks, trees, and public open space in Newport. Its main tenet is to provide ‘equitable treatment’ of open space throughout the City; AND
- WHEREAS, in 2021, the Planning Board’s preliminary review of the 2017 ‘Comprehensive Land Use Plan’ found that while the plan does not include language of inequity or discrimination, the plan needs to be amended to include language that ensures fair and equitable treatment in all city policies; AND
- WHEREAS, the term ‘equity’ is often defined as ensuring greater fairness of treatment and outcomes, strategies for achieving equity are not well defined in the realm of public policy. The steps policy makers must take to ensure that their communities promote and attain fairness including but not limited to issues such as housing, education, the environment, job opportunities, gender, race, age, and disability are often nebulous and difficult for policy makers to codify; AND
- WHEREAS, the City Council has worked for years to bring equitable outcomes and services to residents through:

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- infrastructure investments;
- high quality affordable housing;
- higher education opportunities;
- establishment of health care and childcare services in the North End;
- establishment of “Innovate Newport” in the former Sheffield School;
- the Broadway Renovation Project;
- consolidation of the public elementary schools and the 2012 creation of the Pell School;
- the upcoming new Rogers High School that will improve our students’ access to opportunities in a healthy and safe environment;
- the upcoming realignment of the Pell Bridge ramps for greater connectivity of the North End and Downtown areas;
- the development of a “Master Transportation Plan” that will establish a vision for infrastructure and services as well as equity for the disabled; and
- the “Newport for All Ages” effort in collaboration with AARP to improve livability for seniors.

WHEREAS, The council recognizes the need to ensure fairness of outcomes to concretely enact policies that are equitable for all; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: The City Council, Planning Department and Planning Board work together to develop precise language on fairness of outcomes or equity into the “Comprehensive Land Use Plan” using the American Planning Association guidelines that address issues such as education, gentrification, the environment, health, transportation, public space, and community connectivity; AND BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, That City Council and Planning Board supports training to learn how to ensure equity is implemented along with strategies for codifying policies; BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, That the City Council and City Administration approach the enactment of public policies through a lens of fairness for all Newport residents.

LYNN UNDERWOOD CEGLIE  
JEANNE MARIE NAPOLITANO  
ELIZABETH FUERTE  
CHARLIE HOLDER

IN COUNCIL  
READ AND PASSED

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Laura C. Swistak  
City Clerk