

Resolve 7-11/12

Passage 9-0 9/19/2011

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (3)
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CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
DORY RICHARDS WAXMAN (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE \$33 MILLION COUNTY BOND FOR
MODERNIZATION OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CIVIC CENTER**

WHEREAS, thirty-four years ago, the municipalities and voters of Cumberland County endorsed and worked collaboratively to create the Cumberland County Civic Center; and

WHEREAS, since the Civic Center first opened its doors, it has been an important regional asset generating up to twenty million dollars in economic impact for Cumberland County and supporting hundreds of jobs every year for county residents; and

WHEREAS, Cumberland County owns and operates the Civic Center within the City of Portland and the city is invested in the success of this critical county asset and to that end, has adopted policies and strategies designed to help promote it; and

WHEREAS, the Civic Center meets a unique need for the area as the only indoor venue in Southern Maine able to host large popular events and is also the home to the State's only professional hockey team, the Portland Pirates, who draw fans from all over the county and region; and

WHEREAS, a successful and thriving Civic Center directly benefits the Portland downtown and the City's local merchants, restaurants and entertainment establishments and with the prosperity of these businesses, jobs are created that employ thousands of Portland and Cumberland County residents; and

WHEREAS, since the Civic Center's construction, it has never had a substantial renovation, making it difficult to attract many popular acts, and putting the facility at a disadvantage when it competes with newer venues around New England; and

WHEREAS, without significant improvements the Civic Center is at risk of becoming economically and physically obsolete in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Civic Center's Board of Trustees' modernization proposals for the facility will significantly improve the venue, enhancing the experience for everyone who uses it, as well as retain its status as an important Northern New England venue for concerts, entertainment, sports, business events, and community activities; and

WHEREAS, interest rates and construction costs are at historic lows, and therefore, the renovation project and thirty-three million dollar bond proposal spread over the tax base of the entire county will have little impact on local property taxes, but will create local construction jobs and long term economic benefits to the region;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council strongly supports the proposed Cumberland County Renovation Bond for the Civic Center and asks the voters of Portland and the County to join in that support.