



MAYOR JOSHUA A. GARCIA

CITY OF HOLYOKE

November 4, 2022

Honorable City Councilors

Re: VETO: Ordered, That an ordinance be created that requires a department head to report (with an incident report explaining the cause) of any loss in their department over \$250 in value to the City Council and Mayor within 30 days.

Dear Councilors,

Every employee has the responsibility to assist the City in complying with policies and laws and in reporting violations or loss. As Mayor, it's expected for the support and cooperation of all employees in meeting the City's commitment and responsibility to such compliance.

Currently, our appointed city officials accountable for day-to-day and department heads are responsible for instituting and maintaining a system of internal controls to reasonably ensure the prevention and detection of any fraud, misappropriations, losses, and other irregularities. As Mayor together with our City Auditor, and City Treasurer, depending on the issue, we have the primary responsibility for investigating all activity regarding violations or loss, and to the extent practical, will notify the City Council of reported allegations upon commencing an investigation.

We are working on strengthening internal controls so that we safeguard our resources and ensure greater accountability. This includes adopting a Financial Management Policies and Procedures manual that the Division of Local Services is drafting for us. This manual would include definitions, guidelines, and responsibilities regarding appropriate actions. For these reasons, I don't think we need to make this law, therefore I am vetoing. However, I request for the council to send this back to committee so we can work together on this financial management policies and procedures we look forward to present in near future that may be able to satisfy the intent behind this order.

Sincerely,

Joshua A. Garcia
Mayor

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City of Holyoke

IN CITY COUNCIL

Introduced by Councilor **Kevin A Jourdain**

Ordered, That an ordinance be created that requires a department head to report (with an incident report explaining the cause) of any loss in their department over \$250 in value to the City Council and Mayor within 30 days.

In City Council, June 7, 2022. **Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.**

In City Council, on November 1, 2022, the report of Committee received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

The Committee has considered the same and find that it is truly and properly enrolled.

Report of Enrollment received.

The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (Rivera_J).

Brenna M. McJee
Clerk

Presented to the Mayor	Mayor's Office
For Approval <u>Nov. 2</u> , 20 <u>22</u>	Holyoke, Mass. <u>Nov. 4</u> , 20 <u>22</u>
<u>Brenna M. McJee</u> City Clerk	<u>Approved</u> <u>[Signature]</u> Mayor

* See Attached 2