



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
City Council

CLIFF PONTE
President
City Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2021

For more information contact:
City Council Office (508-324-2233)

OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING FY2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

FALL RIVER, MA – City Council President Cliff Ponte and Vice President Pam Laliberte have issued the following statement:

Throughout the budget process, the City Council has acted in a positive and cooperative manner with the administration to achieve a fair and equitable budget for Fall River's citizens.

The City Council received the budget on May 11. We were required by City Charter to advertise a public hearing for fourteen days. The Public Hearing were scheduled per City Charter, and the Council President released a full schedule of meetings on May 28, 2021. Meetings to deliberate the budget were scheduled on June 8, June 15, June 16, June 22 and June 29.

Therefore, we were very surprised by the Mayor's statement, issued Sunday at 6:15 PM, that a budget had been adopted. In fact, the budget has been rejected on June 22, 2021. (See attached roll call vote.)

Based on the opinion of KP Law the, City Council has acted legally and appropriately and the Mayor is in error. (Attached is a copy of their opinion.)

In order to appropriately serve all of the people of the City, the City Council will continue to consider the budget on June 29, and June 30 if necessary.

It is unfortunate that the Mayor has chosen to act unilaterally and precipitously. No good purpose is served by "government by ambush". Simple notice to the Council by appropriate officials of the Mayor's view would have been a minimal and expected courtesy.

Nevertheless, the City Council will continue to exercise its duties and responsibilities in a mature and positive fashion for the benefit of all of our citizens.

The agenda for the Fall River City Council Meeting scheduled for June 29 will be amended to include the Mayor's communication received on June 28, 2021. In addition, the City Council will be prepared to continue budget deliberations as previously scheduled.

The budget is \$331,680,703 and should not be taken lightly, nor should it be considered adopted absent the spirit of cooperation and formal communication of both the executive and legislative branches and without a formal vote of the City Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. M. H. A.", is positioned below the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL 2021

6-22-21

Fy22 Municipal Budget

Motion: to reject

	YES	NO	
CADIME	✓		
DIONNE	✓		
KILBY	<i>absent</i>		
LALIBERTE-LEBEAU	✓		
LEE	✓		
PECKHAM	✓		
PELLETIER		✓	
PEREIRA		✓	
PRESIDENT PONTE	✓		