

PETITION FILED TO EXPAND NEW BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

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NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (March 13, 2020) – A petition has been filed calling for the adoption of an ordinance for the expansion of the City Council from its current 5 elected members to 7.

“New Brunswick’s population has grown over the past 50 years by 34 percent and is still growing,” says Keith Jones II, who has called the Hub City home for his entire life and is among the Committee of the Petitioners calling for the change. “The city is growing and becoming more and more diverse every day. With the submission of this petition, we have a real opportunity for positive change and giving more residents a voice. It’s about us continuing to grow together.”

The City Clerk has determined the legal sufficiency of the petition and has verified the signatures are those of registered voters of New Brunswick. With this determination, the clerk will report to the City Council at the March 18 Council meeting for a first reading of the ordinance.

The ordinance will then be listed for the Council at the April 1 meeting for a second reading, at which time the Council can choose to adopt, reject, or take no action.

The current system of 5 elected Council people has been in place since 1970. Prior to that, the City was governed by a board of 5 City Commissioners, and from those 5, one was selected by the Commissioners to serve as the City's Mayor.

"Adding two more voices to the city council will allow for more dialogue and more input on the critical issues facing New Brunswick," adds New Brunswick resident and former City Councilwoman Betsy Garlatti. "Much like the population of our city has grown, so should the size of its council."

Sam Beson, a student at Rutgers University and Hub City resident, enthusiastically joined the Committee of the Petitioners, and is excited for what an expansion of the City Council could mean. "New Brunswick is growing," he says, "and so should the number of voices that speak on behalf of our residents."