

City of Pawtucket

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

APPROVED 6/9/2022

Resolved,

- WHEREAS,** *Operation ZAP* was conceived and organized in 1972 by David M. Rosser of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the then President of the *Blackstone River Watershed Association*, beginning the environmental movement in the Blackstone River Valley; and
- WHEREAS,** Samuel Slater, on the Blackstone River in 1790, launched *the American Industrial Revolution*, and initiated economic freedom for the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the use of the Blackstone River's waterpower offered the strength needed to power hundreds of textile mills along its 48-mile length and created employment for thousands of people who arrived from all over the world, in search of their *American Dream*; and
- WHEREAS,** while this economic opportunity catapulted the Blackstone Valley businesses into a world economy for almost 200 years, it also left a legacy of environmental degradation when the Blackstone River became the first industrialized river and first polluted riverway in the Western Hemisphere; and
- WHEREAS,** this environmental condition has denied ten generations the use of the Blackstone River for drinking, swimming or eating its aquatic life; and
- WHEREAS,** the mission of *Operation ZAP* in 1972 was to clean the Blackstone River making it possible for future generations to enjoy living along a clean river way; and
- WHEREAS,** *Operation ZAP* coincided with the founding of *Earth Day* and in the United States Congress' passage of the *Clean Air and Clean Water Acts*, and the founding of *Save the Bay*, which is dedicated to protecting and improving our Narragansett Bay and all the waters that flow into it; and
- WHEREAS,** on September 9, 1972, Mr. Rosser, with the help of hundreds of community leaders and businesses, organized more than 10,000 people to remove tons of refuse from the banks of the Blackstone River and begin the creation of riverfront parks; and
- WHEREAS,** since that time the Blackstone River has seen millions of dollars of federal, state and local money spent on continuing the clean-up efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** over the past five decades the Blackstone River has become cleaner for fish and wildlife and the work is continuing to bring the landscape back to health; and
- WHEREAS,** dozens of people have worked to develop a Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment that points to a future where residents will be able to eat the fish, drink the water and swim in the Blackstone River; and
- WHEREAS,** it is time to be a part of this environmental movement, this time Blackstone River Watershed-wide, to clean up and green up the 25 Blackstone River Watershed communities from Worcester Massachusetts to Providence Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS,** the David Rosser family, is working with the local organizers of ZAP50 to insure the environmental legacy is continued, and
- WHEREAS,** the *Blackstone Valley Tourism Council* is organizing an effort, with dozens of local volunteer groups and individuals, with the goal of organizing 10,001 people, to celebrate the people and groups that have helped clean the Blackstone River over the years; and

WHEREAS, this will be a time to celebrate the people who worked on *Operation ZAP* in 1972 and the organizations and people who continue the work to bring the Blackstone River back to health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE PAWTUCKET CITY COUNCIL, ALONG WITH THE CITY ADMINISTRATION, AT THE REQUEST OF MAYOR DONALD R. GREBIEN, DO HEREBY CALL ON ALL THE PEOPLE OF PAWTUCKET TO JOIN *ZAP 50*, TO BE WITH THE 10,001 PEOPLE THAT ASSEMBLE ON AUGUST 27, 2022 TO CLEAN THE WATERSHED AND AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 AT THE *OLD SLATER MILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE* IN PAWTUCKET, THE BASE CAMP OF DAVE ROSSER'S HEADQUARTERS FOR *OPERATION ZAP* IN 1972, TO CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST 50 YEARS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE *CITY OF PAWTUCKET* COMMITS ITS LEADERSHIP, NECESSARY RESOURCES, AND PARTICIPATION TO ASSIST IN MOBILIZING ITS CITIZENS TO "TURN OUT" TO JOIN THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF *OPERATION ZAP* TO HONOR THE WORK PERFORMED IN 1972, TO HONOR THE GROUPS AND AGENCIES FOR THE PAST AND CURRENT ONGOING EFFORTS, AND TO ENSURE THAT THE GOALS OF *THE OPERATION ZAP* OF 1972 ARE FULLY REALIZED.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PAWTUCKET
RESOLUTION SUPPORT THE ZAP 50 PROJECT
AND THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO CLEAN
UP THE BLACKSTONE RIVER

/ /
Clerk

READ AND REFERRED TO THE

COMMITTEE
/ /
Clerk

RECOMMENDS _____
/ /
Chair

READ AND PASSED ON A ROLL CALL
VOTE: AYES 6 / 8 / 2022 NOES 0

Michelle Kennedy
Deputy
Clerk

APPROVED
6 / 8 / 2022
[Signature]
MAYOR