



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF SCHENECTADY

City Hall - 105 Jay Street
Schenectady, New York 12305-1905

Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor

Office: (518) 382-5000
Cell: (518) 424-0483
Email: GMcCarthy@SchenectadyNY.Gov
www.cityofschenectady.com

October 21, 2026

Hon. Carl Williams
President
Schenectady City Council
City Hall – Jay Street
Schenectady, New York 12305

Dear Carl:

I have vetoed Schenectady City Council Ordinance number 2026-08; an Ordinance Adding Section 28-32 to Chapter 28 of the Schenectady City Code to Set Attendance Requirements for City Council Members.

This legislation does nothing to set attendance requirements for Council Members. It is an attempt to give the impression to the public that the Schenectady City Council is actually doing something, when it is not. New York State Law, Second Class Cities, Chapter 53, Article 4, already gives you and other common councils the ability to remove a member after a two months absence. You have emphasized this legislation is better because it gives a three months period of absence. The reality is you could not start the process to remove a member, under state law, until after two months. You would be in the third month before you could actually start the process. Under the Schenectady City Council rules you would have to have it moved through a committee, then a week later a full council vote, then serve the non-attending member, then schedule a time when the member can be heard in their defense..... definitely a month after the two month period and realistically longer.

This legislation sets forth criteria that the member has been absent without the Council's permission. The wording clearly requires the full City Council to give permission but sets forth no criteria or process for permission.

The background focus of this legislation has been Council Member Carmel Patrick. Who has not missed two consecutive months because of your unbalanced and biased committee assignment workload. Her assignment to Public Service and Utilities, the committee has not been

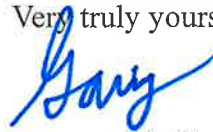


given any legislation and has not met. So technically there is no requirement for those Council Members to attend the committee meetings that they are not members of the committee.

The issues you are purportedly trying to deal with, if they existed, are easily covered in existing state law.

Make a decision on the number of garbage bags a resident can put out and announce where you want to place Pod Housing in Schenectady.

Very truly yours,



Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor