

RESOLUTION No. 2021-

RELATIVE TO REFERRAL OF THE PROPOSED NIAGARA FALLS LOCAL LAW NO. 3 FOR THE YEAR 2021, ENTITLED “REGULATION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS”, AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS ZONING ORDINANCE IN FURTHERANCE OF REGULATION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS TO THE NIAGARA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Council Chairman Kenny Tompkins

WHEREAS, the solar energy industry has grown in recent years due to the economic and environment advantages of renewable energy, federal and state tax benefits and solar industry innovation; and

WHEREAS, among other things, the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan for the City of Niagara Falls requires that land be used in the City in the most beneficial and convenient manner, preserving relationships among the residential, commercial, industrial and recreational areas within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls currently has no specific regulations related to the installation, implementation and operation of solar energy systems within its territorial boundaries; and

WHEREAS, without an inclusive and detailed plan by the City to address the development and operation of solar energy systems in the City of Niagara Falls, the above purposes and requirements referenced in the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance may be jeopardized; and

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WHEREAS, to that end, the City has developed such a solar energy plan which is contained in the attached proposed Local Law No. 3 for the year 2021, entitled “Regulation of Solar Energy Systems”, the contents of which is intended to be incorporated into the City Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, this Council hereby submits the attached proposed Local Law and Zoning Ordinance amendments relative to the regulation of solar energy systems to the Niagara County Planning Board for its review and recommendation thereupon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council desires to adopt Local Law No. 3 for the year 2021 relative to the regulation of solar energy systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council desires that the language contained in the current Zoning Ordinance be amended according to the attached proposed regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED that in furtherance thereof, both the proposed Local Law and proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment shall hereby be referred to the Niagara County Planning Board for its review and recommendation, in furtherance of the Zoning Ordinance amendment process.