

INTRODUCED BY:
Luis E. Cotto, Minority Leader

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, July 12, 2010

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan District Commission (“the MDC”) is a non-profit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929 to provide potable water and sewage to communities in the Greater Hartford area; and

WHEREAS, To provide water in suitable quantities and quality, the MDC owns a considerable amount of land in the Greater Hartford region and beyond; and

WHEREAS, For many decades these lands, with some restrictions for security purposes, have been open to all for recreational uses such as cycling, hiking, walking, running and swimming; and

WHEREAS, The reservoirs in West Hartford are the closest woodsy, mountainous terrain in the area for Hartford residents to enjoy pastoral pleasures, and many residents enjoy heading out to Lake McDonough to swim; and

WHEREAS, Hartford and its residents are MDC ratepayers and are represented by nine commissioners on the MDC board; and

WHEREAS, As a result of an adverse legal ruling and associated liability and insurance concerns, the MDC is considering closing its lands to some or all of the public recreational activities with which it has become associated; and

WHEREAS, Closure of the MDC lands to recreational use would result in a severe diminution of services to rate-paying Hartford residents; now, therefore, be it resolved

RESOLVED, That the Hartford Court of Common Council and the City of Hartford urge the MDC to keep its lands open to the public for recreational use; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council urges the Hartford delegation to the Connecticut General Assembly to pursue appropriate legislative action in concert with the delegations of other MDC member towns to ensure the continued public enjoyment of the MDC lands; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council requests the Town/City Clerk transmit certified copies of this resolution to the MDC board as well as the Hartford delegation to the Connecticut General Assembly.