

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

11-0104R

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE ADDITION OF
PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN ELECTIONS.

BY PRESIDENT GARDNER AND COUNCILOR ANDERSON:

WHEREAS, many eligible voters do not have photo identification; and

WHEREAS, eligible voters who do not have photo identification include the elderly, low-income persons, persons with disabilities, and students; and

WHEREAS, voters who are least likely to have photo identification are more likely to experience barriers that would prevent them from obtaining photo identification; and

WHEREAS, the supporting documents needed to obtain an identification card, such as birth certificates and marriage licenses, can be costly and time-consuming to track down; and

WHEREAS, for the reasons set forth above, photo identification requirements will suppress the vote; and

WHEREAS, the asserted basis for requiring photo identification is voter fraud; and

WHEREAS, voter fraud is rare; and

WHEREAS, photo identification requirements are not necessary to maintain election integrity; and

WHEREAS, photo identification requirements create an additional layer of costly bureaucracy in elections; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing photo identification for persons not able to afford it would ultimately be paid by the taxpayer and would provide limited benefit to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Duluth city council does hereby express opposition to the addition of photo identification requirements in elections.

Approved as to form:


Attorney
COREQ/ATTY JC:dma 02/18/2011

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to express the Duluth city council's opposition to the addition of photo identification requirements in elections.0