

OPEN LETTER TO QUINCY WARD 2 COUNCILOR RICHARD C. ASH WITH COLLECTIVE SIGNATURES 致 QUINCY 第 2 选区议员 RICHARD C. ASH 的联名信 AUGUST 20, 2024

Dear Councilor Richard Ash,

We are residents of Quincy Ward 2. The recent approval of a 79% salary increase for the mayor and a 50% salary increase for city councilors by the City Council, without holding any public hearings and disregarding the protests of residents, has caused widespread public outrage.

Many Quincy voters have actively participated in a signature campaign to overturn the salary increases for the mayor and city councilors. In just 20 days, during the scorching heat and including the Fourth of July holiday, 6,030 voters signed the petition to overturn the mayor's salary increase, and 4,642 voters signed the petition to overturn the city councilors' salary increase. Last year's mayoral election saw a total of only 19,069 voters, so 6,030 signatures represent 32% of the total voters. In the face of such broad opposition, we must ask whom the city councilors are truly representing if they continue to ignore this dissent.

Councilor Ian Cain has proposed a new ordinance to further increase the controversial new salary of the mayor annually based on the Consumer Price Index, and to do the same for the councilors' new salaries. This is undoubtedly adding insult to injury for the residents. We strongly demand that the City Council revoke the recent salary increases for the mayor and city councilors. Instead, we should first establish a reasonable plan for evaluating salaries with resident participation and then assess and decide on salary increases for the mayor and councilors based on this plan, rather than following the approach proposed by Ian Cain.

We have noted your willingness to talk with your constituents and the information you have shared in your newsletter. We strongly request that you hold a public meeting in the ward soon to hear residents' reasons for opposing these salary increases. We also want to hear your views on these salary increases and the resulting public protests, as well as your proposed solutions. To gain voters' trust and votes, elected officials need to genuinely listen to voters and be willing to correct their mistakes.

If you are sincere, please respond within a week of receiving this open letter. Since the council is likely to discuss Ian Cain's ordinance on September 9, we request that you hold a ward meeting by September 7 at the latest. If, for any reason, you cannot hold it before then, please make sure it is scheduled as soon as possible afterward.

Sincerely,

The undersigned

Below is the Chinese translation of this open letter, along with the signatures of Quincy residents in Ward 2 who expressed their consent.

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以下是这份公开信的中文翻译，和同意这封信的 Quincy 第 2 选区的居民的签字。

尊敬的 Richard Ash 议员：

我们是住在 Quincy 第 2 选区的居民。这次市议会无视居民的抗议，在没有举行任何公众听证会的情况下匆忙批准市长 79%的加薪和市议员自己 50%的加薪，在居民中引起了公愤。

很多 Quincy 选民积极投入了推翻市长和市议员加薪的签名行动，不但自己签名，还积极帮忙在各个活动场所收集签名。在酷热的包括美国国庆节在内的短短 20 天里，全市有 6030 个选民在推翻市长加薪的请愿书上签字，4642 个选民在推翻市议会会员加薪的请愿书上签字。去年选举市长，全市总共才有 19069 个选民投票，6030 相当于 32%的投票人数。面对如此广泛的反对意见，如果市议员还是置若罔闻，那我们要问市议员们到底代表的是谁？

市议员 Ian Cain 提出了一个新法案，要在市长极具争议的加薪后的新薪水上，每年再根据消费价格指数继续加薪，对议员的新薪水也是如此，这无疑是在居民的伤口上撒盐。我们强烈要求市议会取消这次对市长和市议员的加薪，先在居民的参与下制定一个评定薪水的合理方案，再根据这个方案评估和决定市长和市议员的加薪，而不是像 Ian Cain 提议的那样。

我们注意到您愿意与选民交流，并且在您的通讯简报中分享了信息。我们强烈要求您近期在选区举行一个公开会议，让您听听居民反对这次加薪的原因，我们也想听听您对这次加薪以及它所导致的全民抗议的看法，以及您对此有何解决方案。要想赢得选民的信任和选票，当选官员需要认真听取选民的意見，并愿意纠正自己的错误。

如果您有诚意，请在收到这封公开信的一周内给与答复。因为九月九号议会就可能要讨论 Ian Cain 的议案，我们要求您最迟九月七号召开选区会议。如果有什么特殊原因不能在这之前召开，也要在近期召开。

此致，

以下签名

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