



**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**  
**REGARDING THE CREATION OF**  
**THE CITY OF NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT POET LAUREATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of New London is an arts and culture center for the region with a long standing history of fostering creative expression; and

**WHEREAS**, writing and sharing poetry has the capacity to bridge expressions of ideas, thoughts, and perspectives across our community; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry inspires emotional learning and is uniquely able to bring simple joy, deep feeling and new understanding to complex social issues; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry helps people to connect to each other and build community while enabling understanding and empathy for different viewpoints; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry encourages critical and creative thinking, promotes literacy and provides a healthy outlet for challenging emotions.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEW LONDON:**

**Section 1. That the Code of Ordinances of the City of New London be amended by adding a new section to read as follows:**

A. The City Council shall appoint a five (5) member Poet Laureate Selection Committee who shall be residents of the City of New London. Said Committee shall recommend for Mayoral appointment a New London resident to serve as the City's Poet Laureate for a three-year term to promote appreciation of the spoken word, literature and the creative economy for the enjoyment and benefit of the City of New London and the greater community.

B. The Committee members shall serve without compensation and may not be employees of the City of New London. All five (5) members shall be appointed to serve three-year terms. Committee members shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed and take office. Committee members may be reappointed for successive terms.

C. The Committee shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from its own number. The Office of Development & Planning (ODP) will provide technical assistance to the Selection Committee and the Poet Laureate Program.

**Section 2.**

A. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

B. This ordinance shall become effective after its passage as set forth in Section 27 of the City of New London Charter.