



GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR OF BUSINESS  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2012  
7:00 P.M.  
KRYOUZ AUDITORIUM, CITY HALL  
SCCM2012-008

CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA  
12 DEC 20 PM 4:50

**AGENDA**

1. Council's Motion to Override Mayor's Veto of City Council's  
Non-Binding Question

**ACTION**

(FCV)

ROLL CALL – Joe Ciolino

Linda T. Lowe, City Clerk

The dates are subject to change. Check with City Clerk's Office.

NEXT REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, January 8, 2013

**NOTE:** The Council President may rearrange the Order of Business in the interest of public convenience.

The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

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CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City Council  
**FR:** Mayor Kirk  
**RE:** Ballot Question Regarding Future use of Fuller School  
**DT:** December 19, 2012

12 DEC 19 PM 3:47  
CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA

Dear Members of the City Council,

As per the City Charter provision Section 3-9, I return to you the City Council vote taken on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 "that there be a non-binding ballot question for the 2013 election ballot regarding the future of Fuller School". The primary objection of the Administration's rejection of this measure is that the outcome of this simple-minded approach to a complex question will grossly mislead the citizens of Gloucester. Specifically:

Option A "Relocate municipal offices to an 'under one roof complex'" fails to take into consideration the following:

- the well documented fact that city offices require approximately 50,000 total square feet, and the Fuller building is 176,000 square feet;
- the impact on the downtown economy if city offices were vacated from City Hall;
- the \$4.1 million investment that has been made in City Hall recently (\$2.6 million in CPA funds and \$1.5 million in city funds).

Option B "Renewed use as a Public School" fails to take into consideration the following:

- input of the Gloucester School Committee on this measure. The Gloucester School Committee is the sole authority as to which buildings are considered school houses and which are not for the purposes of the educational program in the district.
- the well-documented fact that the Gloucester School Committee has settled policy on the matter of whether or not Fuller will be used as a school again. To mislead the public into thinking otherwise is irresponsible of the City Council and causes unnecessary turmoil within the parent school community.
- to open Fuller School as a school again would require that at least two other elementary schools in the district be closed. To ask the question, "should Fuller be a school again?" without asking the question "what schools should close?" is again, completely misleading and irresponsible. The City Council must understand that the consequence of opening Fuller again is that other elementary schools will close. If the City Council has a grander plan than the School Committee's, the City Council should level with the School Committee and the community about it. We need to provide certainty to the parent community – not chaos as they wonder if it is their school that will close.

Option C "Lease and/or sell the property" fails to take into consideration the following:

- The full range of sell or lease options which could include anything from big box stores to a community center such as a YMCA complex. There will be no way to glean a meaningful interpretation of the results of this option should it prevail.

We as elected officials are charged with doing the research, asking the questions, exploring the complexities, holding public meetings, and understanding the financial implications of these decisions. To approach this question in a simple-minded way not only could grossly mislead the public, it would also constitute a failure to carry out our duty as elected officials.

For all of these reasons, I ask the City Council to reverse its course on this measure.