

# Preamble Approved by the Watertown Home Rule Charter Review Committee

July 6, 2021

**W**e, the people of Watertown – mindful of generations who came before us and those yet to come as we seek a more perfect union – are committed to preserving the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In recognition of the historical truth that we live on land that is the traditional territory of the Pequotsette people, we hereby establish the following *Ethic of Civic and Environmental Stewardship*, supported by a group of *Guiding Principles* for this Home Rule Charter for our city.

These guiding principles find multiple expression in Watertown’s policy priorities, practices, and partnerships, in furtherance of the Charter’s purpose: to provide the residents of Watertown with a government that represents all who live, work, play, and create here, and affirms our right to live and grow in freedom, dignity, and tranquility. They also foster wise management of resources that guarantee the opportunity for all residents to reach their full potential while caring for one another and promoting the health, safety, and welfare of our community.

## ETHIC OF CIVIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ★ SAFETY & TRANQUILITY
- ★ HEALTH & WELL-BEING
- ★ EDUCATION & EXCELLENCE
- ★ CREATIVITY & INNOVATION
- ★ EQUITY & DIVERSITY
- ★ ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

We believe that this stewardship ethic and related guiding principles uphold public trust in the competent and faithful execution of government duties, including loyalty and care. Taken together, they yield vibrant and welcoming neighborhoods, high-quality and inclusive schools, transparent and accountable municipal operations – including performance excellence, responsiveness, and collaboration – and thriving local businesses. Recognizing the impact of our decisions on future generations, and committing to practices that foster a sustainable environment in service to the common good, we, the people of Watertown hereby adopt the following Home Rule Charter for our city, all in accord with the Home Rule Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.