

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2975,
AN ACT PROTECTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

WHEREAS: The Somerville City Council is committed to ensuring that all residents have safe, fair, and equal access to the courts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: Access to the courts is a fundamental component of a fair and functioning justice system, and individuals must be able to attend court proceedings without fear of civil arrest that may deter participation in the judicial process; and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 2975, An Act Protecting Access to Justice, introduced by State Senator Lydia Edwards and co-sponsored by numerous members of the Massachusetts Legislature, would protect individuals attending court proceedings from civil arrest at courthouses or on courthouse grounds without a judicial warrant; and

WHEREAS: The bill seeks to ensure that individuals who are parties, witnesses, or family members involved in legal proceedings can safely travel to and from court and participate fully in the judicial process; and

WHEREAS: The legislation also establishes clear procedures requiring law enforcement to identify themselves and provide appropriate judicial authorization before conducting civil enforcement actions within courthouses; and

WHEREAS: These protections are intended to preserve the integrity of the court system and prevent disruptions to judicial proceedings while maintaining appropriate exceptions for individuals convicted of serious violent crimes or identified as national security threats; and

WHEREAS: Communities like Somerville benefit when residents feel confident that they can engage with the justice system without intimidation or barriers that prevent access to legal remedies; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Somerville City Council hereby expresses its strong support for Senate Bill 2975, An Act Protecting Access to Justice; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Somerville City Council respectfully urges the Massachusetts Legislature to pass this legislation and the Governor to sign it into law.