

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 164** **INTRODUCED BY PRESIDENT LEWIS E. REED**

2 An ordinance taking up a proposed amendment to the Charter of St. Louis that
3 was proposed by petition pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of the Charter of the City of St.
4 Louis; said proposed Charter amendment would abolish the elected office of recorder of
5 deeds and place such duties under the office of the assessor.

6 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

7 The following amendment to the Charter of the City of St. Louis is hereby proposed and
8 submitted to the voters of the City of St. Louis and shall be voted upon at an election
9 pursuant to the Charter:

10

11 Article XV of the City Charter is hereby amended by repealing Sections 4 and 5, and
12 enacting in lieu thereof four new sections. Sections 4, 4a, 4b, and 5, which shall read as
13 follows:

14

15 Section 4. Statement of purpose and intent.

16 Abolishing the office of recorder of deeds and consolidation of the functions of that
17 office with that of the Assessor will result in substantial cost savings for the City. Subject
18 to the provisions of this section, it is the intent of the people of the City that these realized
19 cost savings be placed in a special fund known as “the police body-worn camera fund,”
20 subject to appropriation for the uses specified for that fund. The people find that the wear
21 and use of body cameras at all times by all city police officers is critical to the law

1 enforcement operations of the city police department and to the city police department
2 protecting and serving the community. By streamlining city government as provided for
3 under sections 4, 4a, 4b, and 5 of this article, the realized savings can be used to
4 modernize community policing through the purchase, continual wear, and continual use
5 of police body-worn cameras.

6

7 Section 4a. Office of recorder of deeds abolished: transfer of duties.

8 (a) The elected office of recorder of deeds is abolished, but the present recorder of
9 deeds shall continue in office until the end of the term for which she was
10 elected. Until such time, she shall be part of the recorder of deeds department
11 of the assessment division and under the control of the assessor.

12 (b) The duties, functions, and responsibilities of the office of recorder of deeds, as
13 they presently exist or may be amended from time-to-time under State law and
14 City Charter are transferred to the assessment division.

15 (c) The staff of the office of recorder of deeds that are not assigned to the
16 assessment division to carry out the duties, functions and responsibilities of
17 the former office of recorder of deeds shall be afforded the opportunity to
18 become employees of the city with their individual seniority and
19 compensation unaffected and on such other comparable terms and conditions
20 as may be fair and equitable.

1 Section 4b. Disposition of recorder of deeds salary and cost savings from abolishing
2 recorder of deeds office and transfer of duties.

3 (a) No later than ten days after the convening of the Board of Aldermen on the
4 third Tuesday in April, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment shall
5 determine the cost savings that will be realized in the upcoming budget year
6 from abolishing the elective office of recorder of deeds and transferring the
7 duties, functions and responsibilities of the office to the assessment division.
8 The cost savings shall be measured by (i) the base and additional salaries
9 required to be paid to the recorder of deeds by State law and, to the extent
10 additional pay provisions were in force on the date of adoption of this
11 amendment, City charter, code or ordinance, and (ii) any other savings in
12 costs realized in the transfer of the duties, functions and responsibilities of the
13 office to the assessment division.

14 (b) The comptroller is authorized and directed to establish a special fund to be
15 known as “the police body-worn camera fund.”

16 (i) A “police body-worn camera” is an electronic camera system for
17 creating, generating, sending, receiving, storing and displaying video
18 and audio data that may be worn about the body of a law enforcement
19 officer.

20 (ii) Monies deposited into the police body-worn camera fund shall be
21 dedicated to the purchase and use of police body-worn cameras for use
22 by the city metropolitan police department.

1 (iii)The comptroller is authorized and directed to place to the credit of the
2 police body-worn camera fund the cost savings realized from
3 abolishing the elective office of recorder of deeds and transferring the
4 duties, functions and responsibilities of the office to the assessment
5 division; any grants, gifts or donations to the City or the metropolitan
6 police department from any source for the purchase of police body-
7 worn cameras; and any other appropriations to the fund by the board of
8 aldermen.

9 (iv)No payments shall be made out of the of the police body-worn camera
10 fund except by appropriations from the fund by the board of aldermen
11 for the express purpose of the fund. All interest earned on money
12 deposited into the police body-worn camera fund shall be credited to
13 and deposited into such fund. The unexpended balance remaining in
14 the police body-worn camera fund at the end of a fiscal year that has
15 not been appropriated shall not be transferred and placed to the credit
16 of the general revenue fund of the city or any other fund; except that,
17 the board of alderman may transfer or appropriate monies from the
18 police body-worn camera fund for other uses upon a finding and
19 recommendation of the city department of public safety of excess
20 monies in the fund. A finding of excess monies shall only be made on
21 a finding that all police officers are presently equipped with body-
22 worn cameras and that there are sufficient body-worn cameras on hand

1 or cash reserves in the fund to meet future needs or anticipated
2 replacements, related technology and storage needs for the following
3 year.

4

5 Section 5. Assessor and assessment division.

6 (a) The assessor shall have the qualifications provided with regard to the mayor:
7 receive a salary of five thousand dollars per annum, and, before entering upon
8 the duties of his office, take an oath similar to that required by law of county
9 assessors and recorder of deeds. He shall be the head of the assessment
10 division. With respect to the assessment department, he shall appoint the
11 deputy assessors and employees this department as may be provided by
12 ordinance; preserve all maps, plats, books and papers belonging to said
13 division; cause all plats to be prepared, altered and corrected as required by
14 law; receive lists, statements or returns of property; and furnish blanks and
15 information to those desiring to appeal to the board of equalization. With
16 respect to the recorder of deeds department, he shall appoint a chief deputy
17 recorder and such employees as deemed necessary for the operation of the
18 department; have charge and control of the real estate records and personalty
19 records of the city, and all papers, maps, plats and other records pertaining to
20 his office as established by law and may enforce all needful regulations for the
21 their care, use and management not inconsistent with the laws of the state;
22 collect such fees as prescribed by law and pay the same into the city treasury

1 as required by ordinance. The assessor shall receive no additional salary for
2 duties associated with the recorder of deeds department of the assessment
3 division.

4 (b) The assessment division shall consist of the assessment department and the
5 recorder of deeds department. The assessment division will be under the
6 authority and control of the assessor.

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8 ~~[Section 4—Composition of assessment division.~~

9 ~~The assessment division shall consist of the assessor and such deputy assessors and~~
10 ~~employees as may be provided by ordinance.~~

11
12 ~~Section 5—Assessor.~~

13 ~~The assessor shall have the qualifications provided with regard to the mayor; receive a~~
14 ~~salary of five thousand dollars per annum, and, before entering upon the duties of his~~
15 ~~office, take an oath similar to that required by law of county assessors. He shall be the~~
16 ~~head of the assessment division; appoint the deputy assessors and employees in his~~
17 ~~division; preserve all maps, plats, books and papers belonging to said division; cause all~~
18 ~~plats to be prepared, altered and corrected as required by law; receive lists, statements or~~
19 ~~returns of property; and furnish blanks and information to those desiring to appeal to the~~
20 ~~board of equalization.]~~