

**BOARD BILL NUMBER 153 FLOOR SUBSTITUTE
INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN ALISHA SONNIER**

An Ordinance recommended by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and establishing the **BB 131/153 TRANSFORM STL Act**, authorizing and directing an appropriation in the total amount of Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000.00) of Rams Settlement Funds for deposit into a new special fund with an amount as described herein; and containing a severability clause and an emergency clause.

WHEREAS, in 2021, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and the Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority signed a Seven Hundred Ninety Million and 0/100ths Dollars (\$790,000,000.00) settlement agreement with Rams owner Stan Kroenke and the National Football League, resulting in the City negotiating receipt of Two Hundred Eighty Million and 0/100ths Dollars (\$280,000,000.00) as its share from the settlement agreement, of which Thirty Million and 0/100ths Dollars (\$30,000,000.00) was appropriated to invest in the Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, the amount of Settlement Funds, including accrued interest, that are available for appropriation totals Two Hundred Ninety-Four Million and 0/100ths Dollars (\$294,000,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the taxpayer dollars of residents across the City funded the litigation that resulted in the City receiving these Settlement Funds, and the Board of Aldermen finds that this legislation satisfies the strong public purpose of ensuring these Settlement Funds are appropriated such that they will benefit all residents across the City; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2023, as one of its final acts of the 2022-2023 Legislative Session, the Board of Aldermen unanimously passed Resolution Number 171 committing the Board, the Comptroller, and the Mayor's Office to conduct a comprehensive community input and

engagement process to establish community-driven priorities for investing the Rams Settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis launched its community engagement for the Rams Settlement on August 14, 2023 by providing a platform for residents to submit ideas and a survey of city residents' priority challenges that reached nearly 3,200 residents; and

WHEREAS, based on the results of that survey, the Board of Aldermen passed Resolution 159 on November 17, 2023 to declare their intention to use the funds to address the following common priorities: attracting and retaining City workers, increasing public safety, improving City finances, upgrading water infrastructure, increasing access to affordable childcare, improving community mobility, and catalyzing Downtown reinvestment; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, more than 12,000 residents participated in the second phase of the community engagement process, voting on ideas to address top priority challenges, as well as interacting with and commenting on others' submissions, and the Board of Aldermen committed to hold hearings on the most popular and feasible ideas; and

WHEREAS, those ideas included improving City infrastructure services like streets, sidewalks, and water; strengthening the City workforce; supporting affordable and quality childcare; and catalyzing Downtown reinvestment; and

WHEREAS, the extensive, transparent, and responsive community engagement process reached over 15,000 unique participants as of December 2024; and

WHEREAS, over several legislative sessions, the Board of Aldermen has committed to ensuring that these funds are allocated strategically and responsibly to maximize their impact by leveraging matching funds, balancing competing priorities, and creating a generational legacy.

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

SECTION ONE. Public Purpose Satisfied. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Aldermen that the funds created by this ordinance and their purposes as defined herein serve a public purpose, because the City can achieve its full economic and social potential only if every City resident has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of their capabilities and only when financial barriers to their economic, social and educational goals are removed, and because these funds will achieve that public purpose by:

A. Improving public infrastructure across the City, so that all residents will have access to and benefit from clean drinking water.

SECTION TWO. Definitions.

A. **Available Monies.** “Available monies” shall mean the sum of interest and the principal accessible for distribution.

B. **Citywide Water Infrastructure Funds.** The “Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund” shall mean the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund. The Water Division shall have general oversight over and administer the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund.

C. **Settlement Funds.** “Settlement Funds” shall refer to the funds the City received as a result of the City’s settlement of litigation against Rams Football Team owner Stan Kroenke and the National Football League.

SECTION THREE. The Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund.

1. Establishment of the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund.

a. There is hereby appropriated the sum of Forty Million and 0/100ths Dollars (\$40,000,000.00) from Settlement Funds into a special fund to be known as the **Citywide**

Water Infrastructure Fund, created pursuant to this ordinance, and to be held in a fund maintained in the Office of the City Treasurer.

- b. Upon the passage and approval of this ordinance, the Comptroller is authorized and directed to establish a fund to be designated as the "Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund" for the purpose of supporting City water infrastructure and improvements. The fund shall be eligible to accept additional monies from other City appropriations, private donations, or other sources. All interest earned by the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund shall be retained in and for the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund. All expenditures from such fund shall be appropriated in accordance with this ordinance and other applicable law. Appropriate sub-accounts may be created.
- c. The purpose of the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund is to support City water infrastructure maintenance and improvements. Funds deposited and held in the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund may be appropriated and expended only as provided under this ordinance.

2. Eligible Uses of the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund. Monies within the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund shall be used exclusively to provide appropriations to the Water Division for the purposes of:

- a. Supporting City water infrastructure maintenance and improvements, including emergency repairs;
- b. Supporting the creation of City water plans and studies, including but not limited to an analysis of flat rate versus metered billing;

- c. Providing matching funds for federal and state grants that support City water infrastructure maintenance and improvements;
- d. Providing debt service payments for loans received by the City to support City water infrastructure maintenance and improvements; and
- e. Administrative costs, including procuring goods and services and compensating staff, provided that such costs do not exceed 5% of the fund balance on an annual basis.

3. Restrictions on Use of Funds.

- a. No monies may be appropriated from the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund for any purpose other than that authorized pursuant to this ordinance.
- b. No monies may be appropriated from the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund to any entity other than the Water Division.
- c. The Water Division shall develop and recommend appropriations from the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund and shall finalize any recommendations to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for inclusion in the City's annual budget by the March 1st preceding the fiscal year for that budget and in accordance with the budgeting processes outlined under Article XVI, Section 3, of the City Charter.
- d. No monies may be appropriated from the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund in excess of available monies within that fund.

4. Determination of Uses of the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund. The Water Division shall (i) have general oversight over and administer the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund; (ii) recommend to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment any appropriations from the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund for inclusion into the City's annual operating budget for the Water

Division; and (iii) recommend to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment any appropriations from the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund for any emergency repairs.

5. **Fund Accountability.** The Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund shall be included among the funds subject to regular audits of City funds as required under law. As part of the annual update provided for in Ordinance 71683, the Water Division shall include information on any appropriations made from the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund in the immediately preceding fiscal year implemented to support projects. The Water Division shall submit an annual report to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen no later than May 1 of each calendar year detailing (i) the long-term plan for the stewardship, management, repayment, and investment of monies within the Citywide Water Infrastructure Fund; (ii) how available monies within the fund may impact the Water Division's capacity to provide water services; and (iii) any private matching funds being leveraged to support projects authorized under this section. The annual report required under this section shall also be made available on the website of the Budget Division of the City of St. Louis.

SECTION FOUR. Severability Clause. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of Aldermen that each, and every part, section and subsection of this Ordinance shall be separate and severable from each, and every other part, section, and subsection hereof and that the Board of Aldermen intends to adopt each said part, section, and subsection separately and independently of any other part, section, and subsection. In the event that any part, section, or subsection of this Ordinance shall be determined to be or to have been unlawful or unconstitutional, the remaining parts, sections, and subsections shall be and remain in full force

and effect, unless the court making such finding shall determine that the valid portions standing alone are incomplete and are incapable of being executed in accord with the legislative intent.

SECTION FIVE. Emergency Clause. This being an ordinance for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis, and therefore, this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.