



EDITORIALS

Lynn mayor, council at odds over anti-foreclosure law

Kennedy right on principle, wrong on action



Fact is the City Council *did* override her veto and Kennedy should now, despite her disagreement in principle, follow the ordinance.

Although we believe the Lynn City Council's anti-foreclosure ordinance is more about grandstanding than anything else and we agree with Mayor Judith Flanagan Kennedy that the municipally elected body has no real power to dictate business between a bank and its borrower, Kennedy is also wrong if she does not acquiesce to the collective will of the Council which unanimously overrode her veto.

It's no surprise that Kennedy and the Council aren't on the same page, and with Council President Timothy Phelan now an announced mayoral contender, we don't expect a lot of well wishes or cooperation between the mayor and Council president.

But this is a battle Kennedy lost. Fact is the City Council *did* override her veto and Kennedy should now, despite her disagreement in principle, follow the ordinance and find a way to fund a Lynn foreclosure mediation program. With all the talk of the hefty reserve fund, surely there is some way to identify funding for a foreclosure mediator for the new fiscal year that begins July 1. The ordinance is set to take effect in mid-June.

So, to recap, Kennedy is right on principle but wrong with her action.

It is likely, if not a certainty, that this vote of the City Council will, as the Assistant City Solicitor expects, end up in court and potentially result in mounting legal costs for the city when the banks file an action to block it. When that happens, Kennedy might be able to claim "I told you so," but for now, she should act in accordance with the unanimous will of the city's elected legislative branch.