

TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE

Office of Town Clerk

Email:

townclerk@burrillville.org



Phone: 401-568-4300, ext. 133

Fax: 401-568-0490

RI Relay 1-800-745-5555 (TTY)

Burrillville Town Council Resolution in support of Senate Bill 2024 – S 2096 Relating to State Affairs and Government – Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights

WHEREAS, during the Summer of 2020, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns established a working group to consider reforms to the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights (LEOBOR); and

WHEREAS, the group recommended changes to LEOBOR, many of which have been incorporated in Senate Bill 2024 – S 2096; and

WHEREAS, many well intentioned, interested parties have been working for years to update LEOBOR; and

WHEREAS, additionally, over the past several years, members have been working closely with stakeholders, including the Rhode Island Police Chiefs’ Association, to ensure that we can achieve our shared goals; and

WHEREAS, after years of negotiations, the principal points needed to modify LEOBOR are aligned, with minor differences which can and should be reconciled. We respectfully raise the following considerations:

- While the legislation expands the hearing board to five people, the inclusion of the Nonviolence Institute may not meet the requisite background in law enforcement and/or labor law. The Institute is a valued partner in our communities preventing violence and crime; however, the panel will be reviewing internal processes and legality of claims.
- Under this bill, the Police Officers Commission on Standards and Training has an expanded role, it is our understanding that they do not currently have a budget, staff or any of the resources needed to execute the responsibilities outlined in this bill.
- In regards to posting of officers’ names, we oppose requiring names of officers who are in process of being disciplined to be posted online. Mandatory disclosure should occur once the hearing process is complete and if the panel upholds the recommendation of discipline in cases of violations of policy regarding use of force, honesty or integrity.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2024 – S 2096, as introduced, was read and passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and subsequently referred to the House Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, the Town supports the League of Cities and Towns position on the make up of the hearing board, but if compromise is needed to pass the other important reforms, we implore the parties to find common ground this legislative session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville supports Senate Bill 2024 – S 2096 with the amendments as suggested herein.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville respectfully requests members of the House Judiciary Committee, the entire Burrillville delegation and all of the members of the General Assembly to support Senate Bill 2024 – S 2096 with the amendments as suggested herein.

Adopted this 14th day of February 2024.



Donald A. Fox, President
Burrillville Town Council

ATTEST:



Vicki Martin, Town Clerk

