

TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE

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RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION SENATE BILLS 2021 – S0543 AND 2021-S0804 RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – OPEN MEETINGS

- WHEREAS, in March 2020, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island issued executive orders related to public meetings, relieving public bodies from the prohibitions regarding use of telephonic or electronic communication to conduct meetings; and
- WHEREAS, in an attempt to curb the further spread of COVID-19, these orders have required the meetings of any public body accessible to members of the public through adequate, alternative means; and
- WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the Rhode Island General Assembly to make this amendment, and other amendments to the Open Meetings Act, permanent or semi-permanent; and
- WHEREAS, while the Burrillville Town Council supports technology and transparency, Senate bills 2021 – 0543 and 2021-S0804 will over burden cities and towns, and
- WHEREAS, Senate bill 2021-S0804 would require the proceedings of a public body be livestreamed and allow virtual public access, effective until July 1, 2023; and
- WHEREAS, Senate bill 2021-S0543 makes this change permanent; and
- WHEREAS, this mandate would require technology that most cities and towns don't already have and potentially require more permanent staffing to run the technology and manage the public meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that until the State itself, and the Legislature, hold themselves to the same standards as they are asking of cities and towns, no city, town or affected public agency should be required to implement what are costly, problematic and arguably unnecessary changes to open meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville opposes Senate bills 2021 – S0543 and 2021-S0804, and respectfully requests the Town's legislative delegation oppose their passage.

Passed as a resolution of the Burrillville Town Council this 9th day of June, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald A. Fox".

Donald A. Fox, President
Burrillville Town Council



ATTEST: A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicki Martin".
Vicki Martin, Town Clerk