

**THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO..... DATE.....

APPROVED.....MAYOR

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE
RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJUST PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES
AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS THAT ARE HARMING RHODE ISLAND’S SMALL
BUSINESS COMMUNITY**

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island has enacted several executive orders and directives aimed at protecting the health and safety of the general public, but which have also had negative, unintended consequences for small business owners; and

WHEREAS, there are many small business owners who operate within the City of Warwick whom are also Warwick residents; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of these executive orders and directives, while certainly well-intentioned, have caused irreparable harm to small businesses including but not limited to restaurants, bars, retail stores, suppliers, and vendors; and

WHEREAS, various members of the City Council have received specific complaints and concerns from small business owners in Warwick about the executive orders which place a curfew on hours of operation, limit capacity and usage of certain spaces within these businesses, as well as the exorbitant amount of money spent bringing their businesses into compliance, only to weather a growing number of un-ending restrictions; and

WHEREAS, said restrictions have caused irreparable harm to small business, and the State has not recognized or adequately addressed such harm which is evident by its failure to provide sufficient resources and assistance to the small business community and its failure to signal when these “temporary measures” may lapse; and

WHEREAS, portions of the aforementioned restrictive measures referred to by this Resolution have been relaxed as of Friday, January 29, 2021, however, the small business

1 community remains concerned that their reemergence would continue to inflict irreparable harm
2 on themselves, their businesses, and their employees.

3
4 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Warwick
5 urges both the Governor of Rhode Island the Rhode Island General Assembly to take immediate
6 action to allow small businesses to continue normal operating hours, have access to bar seating
7 where appropriate safety measures have been implemented per RIDOH guidelines, and provide
8 significant financial assistance to those small businesses which are struggling.

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to its
11 Senators and Representatives in the Rhode Island General Assembly, including Senate Majority
12 Leader Michael McCaffrey, Senators Jeanine Calkin and Kendra Anderson, , and Representatives
13 Joseph McNamara, David Bennet, Joseph Solomon, Jr., Camille Vella-Wilkinson, Evan Shanley,
14 Patricia Morgan and Patricia Serpa, Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi, Senate President
15 Dominick Ruggiero, Lt. Governor Daniel McKee and Governor Gina Raimondo.

16
17 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.
18
19

20 SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCALLISTER
21 COUNCILMAN FOLEY
22 COUNCILMAN HOWE
23 COUNCILWOMAN TRAVIS
24 COUNCILMAN SINAPI
25 COUNCILMAN GEBHART

26
27 COMMITTEE: UNANIMOUS CONSENT
28