

THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

APPROVED.....MAYOR

RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND THE WARWICK CITY COUNCIL
REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE STATE FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE STATE’S USE OF CITY HOTELS
FOR COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

Resolved that,

WHEREAS: The State of Rhode Island and the City of Warwick are dealing with unique and unprecedented conditions caused by the highly contagious and very dangerous COVID-19 virus, which has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization; and,

WHEREAS: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, in the interest of public health and safety, Federal, State, and City officials have been forced to take drastic measures to help contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which have included quarantining and “stay at home” and social distancing orders; and,

WHEREAS: The State of Rhode Island is utilizing three Warwick hotels: the Wyndham Providence Airport Hotel at 1850 Post Road, the NYLO Providence Warwick Hotel at 400 Knight Street, and Hampton Inn & Suites Providence/Warwick-Airport at 2100 Post Road, for quarantining individuals testing positive for COVID-19 as well as other COVID-19 precautionary health and safety measures; and,

WHEREAS: This arrangement has required additional resources from the City’s police and fire departments, which have already been called to respond to more than 140 medical and other public safety-related issues at these locations; and,

WHEREAS: Warwick’s tourism and hospitality industries comprise a large portion of its tax base, and these industries have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Warwick receives approximately \$9 million in revenue from the airport, hotel taxes, and meal and beverage taxes annually; and,

WHEREAS: The State Department of Revenue has calculated that collections of meal and beverage taxes statewide in March 2020 declined approximately 35.6 percent year-over-year, and

1 hotel tax collections declined approximately 50.8 percent statewide during that same time period;
2 and,
3

4 **WHEREAS:** The Providence/Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau (PWCVB)
5 reports that the total direct spend losses to the City of Warwick from cancelled or postponed
6 business from March 11 through November 1, 2020 has already exceeded \$6.4 million. The
7 PWCVB also notes that, in 2019, Warwick's hotel occupancy was approximately 60 percent, and
8 through December 2020 it is projected to be between 20 and 25 percent; and,
9

10 **WHEREAS:** The State of Rhode Island has been granted \$1.25 billion in Federal stimulus
11 funds as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS:** Given the added strain on City resources and the extensive costs associated
14 with the additional public-safety related services that are being provided by the City to the three
15 COVID-19 related hotels, the Mayor of the City of Warwick and the Warwick City Council believe
16 that state reimbursement for these services, in addition to an allocation of funds commensurate
17 with hotel taxes that would have been disbursed for each booked night, is appropriate and fair.
18

19 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the City Council hereby requests that the
20 State Legislative Branch reimburse the City of Warwick for the State's utilization of its hotels
21 and COVID-19 related services it is providing to guests staying there.
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23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to its
24 Senators and Representatives in the Rhode Island General Assembly, including Senate Majority
25 Leader Michael McCaffrey, Senators Erin Lynch Prata and Mark McKenney, and Representatives
26 Joseph McNamara, David Bennet, Leader K. Joseph Shekarchi, Joseph Solomon, Jr., Camille
27 Vella-Wilkinson, Evan Shanley, and James Jackson, Speaker of the House Nicholas Mattiello,
28 Senate President Dominick Ruggiero, and Governor Gina Raimondo.
29

30 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.
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32 **SPONSORED BY:** COUNCILMAN MEROLLA
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34 **COMMITTEE:** FINANCE