

BRISTOL TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOL

"FY 2023 STATE BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR FUNDING BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY"

Whereas, for many people, public libraries are their only means of access to books, computer services, technology training, and all forms of media are essential for fulfilling and productive lives; and

Whereas, Free public libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in a democracy and provide for the cultural, educational, informational, and research needs of all citizens; and

Whereas, The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island at Article XII, Section 1 states that it "shall be the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and to adopt all means which it deems necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education and public library services"; and

Whereas, in recognition of the importance of libraries in our society, the Rhode Island General Assembly has set the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of twenty-five (25%) of the amount spent from local tax funds and a library's private endowment; and

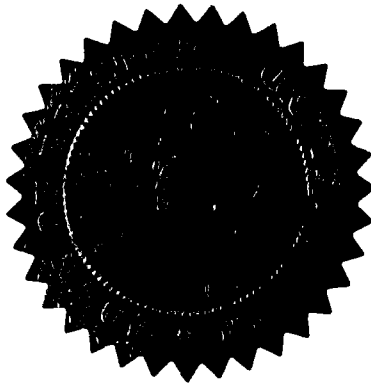
Whereas, since the FY 2009 the State of Rhode Island has not funded state aid to libraries at the twenty-five (25%) level as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 29-6-2; and

Whereas, the Governor's proposed FY 2023 budget funds state aid to libraries at 22.38%, which is \$23,122 less than the Town of Bristol would receive at the required 25% level; and

Whereas, the Town of Bristol supports fully funding State Aid to Libraries at the 25% level in FY 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Honorable Bristol Town Council:

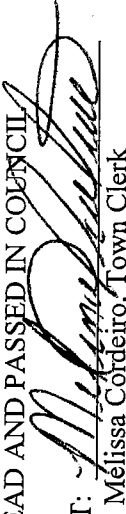
1. Requests that the Rogers Free Library Public Library Board of Trustees support legislation to restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% required in R.I. Gen. Laws §29-6-2 (a) and urges Bristol's state legislative delegation of senators and representatives to the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage; and
2. Directs the Bristol Town Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor and members of the Town of Bristol's state legislative delegation.



APRIL 20, 2022

READ AND PASSED IN COUNCIL

ATTEST:


Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

cc.

Governor McKee

Senator Felag

Senator Coyne

Senator Severney

Rep. Donovan

Rep.

Speaker

