

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI  
RESOLUTION #2026-01-27-E**

**RESOLUTION OF THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION  
TO MODERNIZE AND STANDARDIZE THE ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (APRA)**

**WHEREAS**, the Access to Public Records Act (“APRA”) establishes the statutory framework governing public access to governmental records in the State of Rhode Island; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities, including the Town of Portsmouth, have experienced a substantial increase in the volume and complexity of APRA requests, resulting in increased administrative, operational, and fiscal impacts on municipal government; and

**WHEREAS**, the absence of uniform statewide request forms and consistent procedural standards has contributed to inefficiencies, inconsistent application, and uncertainty for both requestors and public bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, modernization and standardization of APRA procedures would improve administrative efficiency, promote consistency, and enhance accountability while preserving the public’s statutory right of access to public records; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a uniform statewide APRA request form and consistent procedural standards would provide clarity for requestors, reduce administrative burden on municipalities, and support the orderly and timely processing of requests.

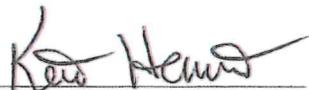
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Portsmouth Town Council supports legislation to modernize and standardize the Access to Public Records Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such legislation should include the adoption of a uniform statewide APRA request form and consistent procedural standards applicable to all public bodies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Portsmouth Town Council affirms its commitment to compliance with APRA and to the principles of transparency and open government, while supporting reasonable statutory reforms to improve efficiency and consistency in administration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Town of Portsmouth’s State Senator and Representatives, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, and all municipalities within the State of Rhode Island for their consideration.

Adopted this 27th day of January, 2026.

  
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Keith E. Hamilton  
Portsmouth Town Council President

ATTEST:

  
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Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk