

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OVER LAND USE AND HOUSING DECISIONS

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown recognizes that Rhode Island municipalities have traditionally exercised local authority over land use, zoning, and housing decisions in order to reflect the unique character, environmental conditions, infrastructure capacity, and community priorities of each municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has concerns that certain recently enacted or amended state statutes related to housing and land use have had the effect of eroding municipal authority and discretion in these areas; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council acknowledges that reduced local control over land use and housing decisions limits the ability of municipalities to balance housing needs with environmental protection, public safety, infrastructure capacity, and community planning goals; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has received and reviewed resolutions adopted by the Towns of Tiverton and Portsmouth expressing similar concerns regarding state legislation affecting municipal authority over land use and housing matters; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes the value of collaborative advocacy among Rhode Island municipalities, including working through the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns and engaging municipal representatives in the Rhode Island General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council understands that a Joint Municipal Statement has been proposed or circulated as a means of expressing shared municipal concerns and seeking legislative reconsideration, amendment, or clarification of state laws impacting local land use authority;

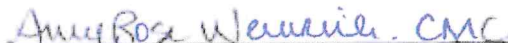
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown, Rhode Island, that the Town Council expresses its intent to explore and consider collaboration with other Rhode Island municipalities, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, and Charlestown's elected representatives in the General Assembly regarding potential legislative efforts to reverse, amend, or otherwise modify state statutes that have diminished municipal authority over land use and housing decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such consideration shall include, but not be limited to, issues and concerns raised in the resolutions adopted by the Towns of Tiverton and Portsmouth, as well as the potential endorsement or execution of a Joint Municipal Statement should the Town Council determine such action to be in the best interests of the Town of Charlestown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes and directs the Town Administrator and other appropriate officials to engage in discussions, provide analysis, or report back to the Council regarding potential collaborative actions, legislative strategies, or advocacy efforts consistent with this resolution.

ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown, Rhode Island, this 13th day of April, 2026.

ATTEST:


Amy Rose Weinreich, Town Clerk

