

**Resolution urging the RI State Legislature to support
Allocating funding for permanent safety barriers
On Rhode Island's bridges over Narragansett Bay**

WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton recognizes that any and all suicides are devastating and extend our sympathies to our loved ones, family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and communities affected by the loss; and

WHEREAS, we thank our Town of Hopkinton first responders for their heroic efforts to save lives including from our bridges over Narragansett Bay; and

WHEREAS, suicides from our state's bridges over Narragansett Bay have affected our community since the time the bridges were built; and

WHEREAS, we seek ways to make our bridges safe from potential suicides; and

WHEREAS, the barriers erected by the Army Corps of Engineers on the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges have been shown to greatly reduce access to the bridge railings as means for suicide; and

WHEREAS, most recently safety netting installed on Florida's Skyway Bridge is showing great promise for reducing suicides from said bridge; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the railings on the bridges over Narragansett Bay, including the Jamestown, Pell, Sakonnet and Mount Hope bridges do not exceed approximately 42 inches and are not tall enough or designed to keep the public from going over the bridge railing as a means to suicide; and

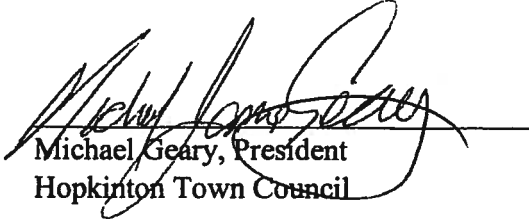
WHEREAS, according to statistics from the RI Department of Health from 2012 – 2021 there were 1,199 suicides in Rhode Island of which 54 were bridge related suicides and of those 51 +/- were bridge related suicides from bridges located Bristol, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the RI General Assembly appropriated funding to the RI Turnpike and Bridge Authority for engineering studies for the Jamestown and Mount Hope and the Pell and Sakonnet but we need to make the installation of safety barriers a reality on all four bridges.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Hopkinton, Rhode Island urges the Rhode Island Senate and House Finance Committees and the Rhode Island General Assembly to support the legislative efforts to immediately and once and for all install suicide prevention safety barriers on several Rhode Island's bridges, especially those over Narragansett Bay.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk shall digitally transmit copies of this Resolution to members of the legislative delegation representing the Town of Hopkinton, as well as the Governor and Rhode Island cities and towns.

Passed and adopted as a Resolution of the Hopkinton Town Council this 13th day of May, 2024.


Michael Geary, President
Hopkinton Town Council

ATTEST: Marita D. Murray
Marita D. Murray, Town Clerk

