

1 THE CITY OF CRANSTON

2
3 **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

4 **REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE RHODE ISLAND**
5 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJUST PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES AND EXECUTIVE**
6 **ORDERS THAT ARE HARMING RHODE ISLAND’S SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY”**

7
8 **No.**

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10 *Passed:*

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13 **Christopher G. Paplauskas, Council President**

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16 **WHEREAS**, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the Governor of the State of Rhode
17 Island has enacted a number of executive orders and health directives, while well-intended for the
18 general public, those order and directives have negatively impacted Rhode Island’s small business
19 community; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, Rhode Island’s small business community is comprised of a wide array of
22 diverse business owners, employees, and vendors who together make up the heart and soul of our
23 state’s economy by providing employment and financial security for hundreds of thousands of
24 Rhode Islanders; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, while well-intentioned, some directives and executive orders – in particular,
27 the arbitrary 10 p.m. weekday and 10:30 p.m. weekend closing time established on Nov. 8, 2020 –
28 have caused significant and, in some cases. irreparable harm to restaurants, bars, social clubs,
29 stores, vendors, indoor recreational facilities, and other small businesses; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, such harm has not been adequately recognized or addressed by the State of
32 Rhode Island, insofar as the state has failed to provide sufficient resources or assistance to the small
33 business community, and the state has not signaled when or how small businesses may return to
34 normal hours of operations, despite those businesses taking numerous precautions and complying
35 with all executive orders and health directives; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the closing times established by the within referenced executive orders and
38 directives are not grounded in any empirical, scientific or other type of analysis, and such orders
39 and directives, initially stated as to be “temporary” in nature, have been in effect continuously for
40 several months.

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42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Honorable Cranston City Council:

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44 1. Strongly urges both the Governor of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island General
45 Assembly to act without delay to allow small businesses to resume their normal
46 operating hours; and

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2. If the State of Rhode Island is unable or unwilling to remove such restriction on normal operating hours, that immediate and decisive action be taken by state leaders to provide significant additional financial assistance to the small businesses that are struggling and negatively affected by this mandate, for the sake of their employees, for the health and welfare of the families that these businesses support, and for the future survival of businesses that, because of overly strict mandates and the many challenges and expenses presented by COVID-19, are hanging on by a thread, and

3. A copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Cranston City Clerk to Her Excellency Governor Gina M. Raimondo, to His Excellency Lt. Governor Daniel McKee, to all of the Honorable Representatives and Senators representing the City of Cranston in the General Assembly, to the Honorable Rhode Island Speaker of the House and the Honorable Rhode Island Senate President, and to all Rhode Island city and town councils, who are respectfully urged to join the Cranston City Council in passing a resolution in support of the small business community.

Sponsored by: Council President Paplauskas, Council Vice-President Brady and Councilwoman Vargas