

**TOWN OF EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND****A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION ALLOWING THE TOWN OF EAST GREENWICH TO ENACT A TIERED TAX CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND EXEMPT PERSONAL TANGIBLE PROPERTY OF SMALL BUSINESSES**

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island General Laws, Title 44, Chapter 5, Section 11.8, authorizes Rhode Island municipalities to adopt a tiered tax classification system; and

**WHEREAS**, this statute limits the adoption of such a system to years when there is a completion of a comprehensive revaluation or an update; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to statute, a comprehensive revaluation occurs only once every nine years and an update only occurs in three-year intervals between the revaluations; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly has amended RIGL 44-5-11.8 several times to allow certain Rhode Island municipalities, including Providence, Glocester, Middletown, Little Compton, Scituate, and Coventry, to create a tiered tax classification system, notwithstanding the year of revaluation or update; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Glocester and City of Providence are given greater flexibility under the statute to create a tiered tax rate; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the fiscal state of East Greenwich, the Town Council would like to explore creating and be authorized to create a tiered tax system in East Greenwich as soon as possible and would like the same flexibility afforded to Glocester and Providence under the statute; and

**WHEREAS**, waiting for a revaluation or update year would cause a critical delay in creating and implementing such a tiered tax system; and

**WHEREAS**, East Greenwich would like to explore providing an exemption to small business for a certain amount of personal tangible property; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly has already enacted legislation allowing the Town of Narragansett to provide such an exemption under RIGL 44-3-65, and East Greenwich would like to have the same authority; and

**WHEREAS**, included with this resolution is draft legislation that would amend RIGL 44-5-11.8 to allow East Greenwich to create a tiered tax classification system with the same flexibility as Providence and Glocester, regardless of whether it is a revaluation or update year; and

**WHEREAS**, included with this resolution is draft legislation that would amend RIGL 44-3-65 that would allow East Greenwich to provide the same tangible personal tax exemption to small business as is allowed in Narragansett; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The East Greenwich Town Council hereby respectfully requests the General Assembly to enact the proposed amendments to RIGL 44-5-11.8 and RIGL 44-3-65 in the 2019 legislative session, in order to allow East Greenwich to adopt a flexible tiered tax classification system regardless of whether it is a revaluation or update year and to provide an exemption to small businesses; and
2. This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leigh A. Carney, CMC  
Town Clerk

Adopted on \_\_\_\_\_ by the East Greenwich Town Council and voted \_\_\_\_\_.

DATE:  
March 25, 2019