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SECRETARY OF STATE
PUBLIC INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE ORDER

15-06

February 13, 2015

STRENGTHENING MUNICIPALITIES FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND SUCCESS

WHEREAS, municipal governments and entities in Rhode Island, including towns, cities, villages, school and fire districts, and other taxing authorities, provide community and public services that impact the quality of life enjoyed by Rhode Island residents; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, state officials, and citizens all believe that we should reduce growing property tax burdens, which have been identified as a strain on families and deterrent to job creation, and are driven by expenses such as pension and retiree healthcare obligations; and

WHEREAS, empirical research and experience have demonstrated that regionalizing public service delivery can create economies of scale and economic efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the voluntary consolidation of local services through the structural and administrative streamlining of municipal government and the transferring of services to an appropriate entity for delivery in the most efficient manner would help relieve the reliance on local property taxes and reduce associated costs; and

WHEREAS, there are examples of successful intergovernmental cooperation efforts in states throughout and around Rhode Island and New England; and

WHEREAS, efforts in Rhode Island to realize broader regionalization and consolidation, if and where it is found to be beneficial, require the State's assistance; and

WHEREAS, the economic well-being of municipalities is a priority and must be supported by innovative strategies that deliver municipal services more efficiently and

effectively through collective programs that will produce economic benefits that are both reciprocal and cost-effective; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Governor Daniel J. McKee is a former Mayor and knows firsthand that a successful state strategy to advance effective intergovernmental cooperation requires a collaborative approach and robust partnerships with municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has proactively established the Joint Shared Municipal Services Study Commission to support consolidation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State wishes to assist municipalities to identify barriers that may inhibit their existing efforts to increase efficiencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GINA M. RAIMONDO, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby order as follows:

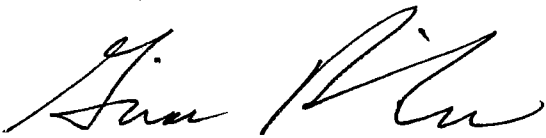
1. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall develop, in consultation with cities and towns and the Governor, best practices to address growing municipal costs.
2. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall develop, in consultation with cities and towns and the Governor, best practices for regionalizing and/or consolidating municipal services.
3. The Office of Lieutenant Governor shall assist municipalities in developing a list of regionalization opportunities and agreement templates, if municipalities so choose.
4. The Office of Lieutenant Governor shall collaborate with municipalities to communicate to all stakeholders that improved services and reduced costs are in the long-term interests of all Rhode Islanders.
5. The Office of Lieutenant Governor shall provide assistance in drafting legislation that will enhance and incentivize regionalization and consolidation efforts.
6. The Office of Lieutenant Governor shall assist municipalities in identifying and addressing unfunded and underfunded state mandates.
7. The Office of Lieutenant Governor shall explore opportunities to enable municipalities to diversify their sources of revenue beyond property taxes and

the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax.

8. The Office of Lieutenant Governor shall assist the General Assembly's Joint Shared Municipal Services Study Commission in its mission to support intergovernmental cooperation.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

So Ordered:



Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

Dated:

2/13/15