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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE BURRILLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT ON THE CREATION
AND SUCCESS OF THE "BURRILLVILLE ADDICTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(BAAP)"

Introduced By: Senators de la Cruz, Rogers, Paolino, Morgan, and Algieri

Date Introduced: June 13, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, During a six week period in 2014-2015, the Town of Burrillville endured
2 the tragic deaths of six people due to overdose, giving the Town the troubling distinction of
3 having the highest per capita death rate in the nation due to overdoses. These deaths had a
4 devastating impact on the Town; and

5 WHEREAS, In response, the Town immediately reacted by passing a number of
6 measures to address the crisis. All Burrillville Police Officers were issued Narcan to carry at all
7 times which has resulted in numerous "Narcan life saves" by multiple Burrillville Police Officers;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Burrillville Town Council, upon receiving Burrillville Police Chief
10 Colonel Stephen J. Lynch's proposal to fund a program with a full-time Coordinator who would
11 offer treatment paths for those seeking to end their addiction, passed and fully funded the
12 Burrillville Addiction Assistance Program (BAAP), which officially commenced in January of
13 2018, with the hiring of Coordinator Michelle Harter. The BAAP Program is embedded within
14 Burrillville Police Department and provides 24/7 service. In addition, the Town of Burrillville
15 funded the hiring of a Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, who works closely with BAAP
16 to counsel young people about the dangers of drug use and to help those suffering from drug
17 addiction; and

18 WHEREAS, Since April of 2019, BAAP has placed more than 140 people into treatment
19 and recovery programs, has distributed NARCAN to at-risk individuals in Burrillville and has

1 partnered with local and state recovery centers including WellOne, Adcare, Community Care
2 Alliance, Anchor Recovery, Parent Support Network, and the Pain Solutions Center to assist
3 recovery efforts for Burrillville residents; and

4 WHEREAS, The Burrillville Addiction Assistance Program formed three different
5 addiction/family support groups which meet weekly at the Burrillville Police Station, hosted,
6 trained and graduated 28 members to become certified Peer Recovery Specialists, performed
7 door-to-door outreach in conjunction with the Burrillville Police Department to assist those in
8 need of substance abuse guidance, co-hosted Burrillville’s first Town Hall Forum on the subject
9 of Opioid Use Disorder, and, thanks to its success, is often contacted by other communities in
10 Rhode Island for assistance in planning similar programs for their cities and towns; now,
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby congratulates the Burrillville Police Department on the success of the “Burrillville
14 Addiction Assistance Program (BAAP)”; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Colonel Stephen J. Lynch, Police Chief, Town
17 of Burrillville.

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