

January 28, 2021

Honorable members of Rhode Island General Assembly,

As President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-RI), I would like to extend greetings to returning members and offer an introduction to our organization for new members.

APA-RI members are community planners and allied professionals, elected and appointed local planning officials, educators, students, and engaged citizens who are committed to supporting strong, resilient, equitable, and inclusive communities. Our diverse membership serves the 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island and represents a broad range of issues. We believe that meaningful and effective planning creates stronger and more just communities through access to opportunities, strategic investments in innovation, and broadly shared prosperity.

Enclosed, please find a handout with more information on our organization. Last March, we were pleased to host the first-ever Planners Day at the State House. While in-person gatherings are unlikely, we do hope to organize a virtual meet-and-greet between legislators and our members this year.

We recognize that much of the General Assembly's work this year will be focused on continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders and our economy. We are ready to help with these efforts in any way we can.

In addition, I welcome the opportunity to work with you along with my fellow APA-RI members to discuss any other legislation and policy goals for this legislative session and the longer term. Please consider us a resource for topics including comprehensive planning & land use, zoning & subdivision regulations, economic development, housing, energy & the environment, and transportation. For example, during this legislative session we will be actively promoting legislation to establish a Land Use Commission to explore reforms to the State's land use and zoning laws. We want to make sure that representation on the commission is broad and diverse, and that the commission is charged not only with improving the efficiency, consistency, and predictability of development in Rhode Island, but producing better, more equitable outcomes for all Rhode Islanders in terms of access to good homes and jobs, and doing so in a way that protects our environment and the things that make us special.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. We greatly look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jeff C. Davis, AICP - President
president@rhodeislandapa.org
401-272-1717