



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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*Peter F. Neronha*  
*Attorney General*

April 11, 2019

**VIA EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL**

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is essential to the functioning of our democracy that the business of government in the State of Rhode Island be carried out in an open and transparent manner. Enclosed is a Notice from the Office of the Attorney General that informs citizens of their rights under the Access to Public Records Act (“APRA”) and the Open Meetings Act (“OMA”).

**What are the APRA and OMA?**

The Access to Public Records Act (“APRA”) and the Open Meetings Act (“OMA”) provide citizens with important rights related to accessing public documents and being informed about public meetings. In addition, the APRA and OMA give the Office of the Attorney General authority to investigate alleged violations of these acts and, where appropriate, file a lawsuit. R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-12 requires each city and town hall in the State to place a Notice from the Office of the Attorney General advising citizens of their right to file complaints for alleged violations of the OMA.

**Under State law, this notice must be displayed in your city or town hall.** Please post this notice in a prominent location accessible to the public.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact the Open Government Unit at the Office of the Attorney General at (401) 274-4400, ext. 2481 or [opengovernment@riag.ri.gov](mailto:opengovernment@riag.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Adi Goldstein

Deputy Attorney General

Enclosure



## **NOTICE: Access to Public Meetings and Open Records**

It is important to our democracy that the business of government in the State of Rhode Island be carried out in an open and transparent manner. Accordingly, members of the public have a right to access public meetings and public records, with some exceptions as provided by law.

### **Open Meetings Act:**

Under the Open Meetings Act, you have the right to know when meetings of public bodies are scheduled and the subject matter to be discussed, as well as the right to attend meetings and access meeting minutes, with some limited exceptions. *See R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-1 et seq.*

### **Access to Public Records Act:**

Under the Access to Public Records Act, you have the right to request and access public records, with some limitations. *See R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-1 et seq.* A public body must respond to your public records request within 10 business days. This time period may be extended an additional 20 business days for “good cause.” *See R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-3(e).*

The Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General is committed to ensuring public access to information in accordance with these acts. If you believe your rights under either of these acts have been violated, you may file a complaint with our Office or commence an action in the Rhode Island Superior Court.

**For more information, visit the Open Government Unit page on [www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov).**

Peter F. Neronha  
Rhode Island Attorney General