

Bonnet Shores Fire District Tax Assessors August 6, 2024

Pursuant to Article I Section 6 of the Bonnet Shores Fire District (the “Fire District”) By-Laws, we, the elected Tax Assessors of the Fire District, have the sole responsibility for examining, approving and certifying a Voting List of Qualified Voters to be used to determine who may vote at the upcoming Fire District Annual Meeting. In connection with our responsibilities, we carefully reviewed the material supplied to us by the Tax Collector pursuant to the By-Laws. We also reviewed and considered, among other things, the September 23, 2022 and February 6, 2023 legal memoranda prepared by William Conley and the April 24, 2024 memorandum prepared by Thomas Dickinson, the transcripts of the February 16 and April 12, 2024 hearings before Judge Taft-Carter, as well as the Consent Judgment entered by Judge Taft-Carter on May 26, 2022.

As you are aware, given the contradictory nature of the legal conclusions reached by Attorneys Conley and Dickinson, we asked that we be provided independent counsel to assist us in our work. Regrettably, the Fire District Council refused that request. Recently, you sent an email advising us that we had only 24 hours from our receipt of the information from the Tax Collector to complete our work. You cited no basis for that deadline, and we find none in either the Fire District Charter or By-Laws. Nevertheless, as we stated in our July 12, 2024 notice to the Council, we are ready, willing, able and prepared to perform the job we were elected to do and do not want to do anything to delay the elections.

Accordingly, based on our examination and review of the facts, we certify that the Voting List of Qualified Voters to be used at the upcoming District Annual Meeting shall consist of those persons registered to vote with the Narragansett Canvassers Board as of July 27, 2024 who have addresses located within the Bonnet Shores Fire District, as listed in the file sent to us by the Tax Collector. While we had requested that the Tax Collector send us a list limited to registered voters with addresses within the Bonnet Shores Fire District, our examination of the files sent to us reveals that the list includes persons with addresses outside of the District. Given the circumstances, we examined and reviewed the materials supplied to us, but reiterate that we only certify that those registered voters shown thereon with addresses within the Bonnet Shores Fire District are Qualified Voters and are to be

included in the certified Voting List. We are still waiting for the hard copies of the Voter List with just Bonnet resident addresses from the Tax Collector.

Additionally, while we are troubled by the late notice and short time given by the Council to other District residents who were not registered with the Narragansett Canvassers Board to qualify to vote, we are informed that four persons attempted to submit certifications as described in the letter sent to residents dated July 17, 2024. One of those persons listed a nonresidential address, and therefore is not to be added to the list of Qualified Voters. To the extent the others do not appear on the list received from the Canvassers Board, they shall be added to the Voting List.

No other persons are deemed Qualified Voters for the purposes of the upcoming Annual Meeting and are not to be included on the Voting List for that meeting.

The Clerk is hereby directed to issue ballots at the Annual Meeting only to persons whose names appear on the Voting List as described above.

Approved and certified by the Tax Assessors.