Town Manager Report for the week ending November 13, 2026

On Tuesday I had the Board of Directors meeting of the R.I. League of Cities and Towns where we discussed the Governor's transition and our reach out for a meeting with her. We also discussed our legislative priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session including school aid and the Blue-Ribbon Commission study that was compiled by the R.I. Foundation.

Tuesday night we had one of our two monthly Council meetings and had a very large turnout. In District 2 Britney Boyer was sworn in to fill the remaining term of former Co. Alisa Capaldi's term until January 11 when all of the Councilmembers will be sworn in to begin their new 2-year term. The public comment portion of the meeting conveyed that the neighbors around Piggy Lane were not in favor of the proposed battery center that was on the agenda. The proposal was voted down by the Council. The Council also gave a proclamation to James Kuipers for his decades of service on the Juvenile Hearing Board. The Council authorized a contract for Horsley Witten for up to $120k to design a green infrastructure stormwater management system for our new outside space at the Community Learning Center. This is a R.I. Infrastructure grant with no match that will revitalize the courtyard outside our new Brewed by Friends cafe that recently opened at the Annex. This space is the last piece of the puzzle that will make the Community Learning Center project complete. The Police Department also had their resolution for the continuation of the Axon Body Worn Camera program approved for another year. This is the 4th year of a 5-year contract with the State of R.I. who supplements a majority of the cost for the program.

On Thursday morning the Brewed by Friends Café in the Community Learning Center had its soft opening and it was very successful. Director Robillard and his staff have the café looking bright and welcoming. The cafe had visits from the Community Center partners, the police department, Town and school staff, and the public. It will be open starting Tuesday November 17 Monday thru Friday from 900-100. Its motto is "Connecting Community One Cup at a Time."

On Friday President Verducci and I attended the United Way/ Alliance for Nonprofit Impact Awards at the State House Library in which the Coventry Resource and Community Center and its Director Bob Robillard were presented an award for all the services it provides in our community. It helps our seniors, those disabled and with disabilities, those with food insecurity, and anyone who needs assistance. This Center is an asset in our community and its recognition is well deserved. Congratulations!!