



Press Releases

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House of Representatives honors Bike Newport

STATE HOUSE – The House of Representatives today unanimously adopted a resolution honoring Bike Newport, the charitable organization dedicated to improving, encouraging and facilitating bicycling in and around Newport.

Sponsored by Rep. Lauren H. Carson (D-Dist. 75, Newport), the resolution coincides with the organization’s first major event of the year, “The First Mile,” an activity being held to support efforts to create the first mile of a bike path on Aquidneck Island.

The Bike Newport Night party will be held from 6 to 9 tonight at the Midtown Oyster Bar, 345 Thames Street, Newport. All funds raised at the event will be used to support the advocacy work being undertaken to make the off-road bike path in Newport a reality.

The first mile of the proposed new bike path would provide an initial car-free path on Aquidneck Island, connecting the North End of Newport with the center of town using healthy active transportation and allowing residents, visitors and workers to reach Newport in a safer, happier and healthier way, said Representative Carson.

“This first mile of the bike path will also provide the impetus to continue the path up the island all the way to the Mount Hope and Sakonnet bridges,” said Representative Carson. “This route would include some of the most scenic stretches in Rhode Island and would connect Aquidneck Island with the network of statewide bike paths that represent some of the most beautiful bike paths in the United States.”

In addition to holding its annual Bike Newport Night, the organization advocates throughout the year for safer biking and better access for bike riders. The group offers classes and teaches people how to ride safely, produces maps of recommended routes throughout Newport County for both recreational and transportation cyclists, and distributes restored bicycles to community members from age 4 to 84.

Bike Newport also distributes night safety equipment to Newport’s bicycle dependent workers. In 2013, 300 sets of safety equipment were issued. The organization also works with the City of Newport, Newport Police Department, Newport Public Schools, the RI Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to ensure the most productive road safety initiatives and, in 2012, the group partnered with RIDOT for Statewide Highway Safety Action Planning.

In 2013, thanks in large part to the efforts of Bike Newport, the City-by-the-Sea became the first community in Rhode Island to receive “Bike Friendly Community” status from the League of American Bicyclists.

“Each and every day, Bike Newport is leading the way as a model advocacy organization, working to better protect our natural resources and encouraging people to adopt healthier lifestyles,” said Representative Carson.

Further information about the organization, its events and calendar is available at bikenewportri.org.

Co-sponsors of the resolution (2015-H 5910) are Rep. Dennis M. Canario (D-Dist. 71, Portsmouth, Little Compton, Tiverton), Rep. Marvin L. Abney (D-Dist. 73, Newport, Middletown), Rep. Daniel P. Reilly (R-Dist. 72, Portsmouth, Middletown) and Rep. Deborah Ruggiero (D-Dist. 74, Jamestown, Middletown).

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