TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

RESOLUTION #26-356

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RESIGNATION OF MAYOR ANTHONY ROSSI

WHEREAS, Vernon taxpayers deserve transparent, accountable, and responsible management of their money; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Anthony Rossi has stated that there will be no more employee census documents provided, despite the importance of this information to understanding municipal staffing levels and personnel expenditures; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-37.1 expressly preserves the Township Council's authority to inquire into any act or problem of municipal administration and permits Council members to require reports from the Mayor concerning any aspect of municipal government; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township Code § 5-4(B)(5) further authorizes the Council to investigate the conduct of municipal departments and require municipal officers to provide records and reports necessary to conduct those investigations; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's stated intention to discontinue providing the employee census raises serious concerns that he is obstructing the Council's ability to obtain information necessary to exercise its statutory oversight and investigative responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township Code § 5-3(B)(5) assigns the Mayor responsibility for preparing and submitting the annual operating and capital budgets and supervising the budgetary process; and

WHEREAS, despite this responsibility, Mayor Rossi has characterized public budget discussions as "public political theatrics" and expressed a preference for conducting budget discussions behind closed doors, against the Open Public Meetings Act, raising serious concerns about his commitment to public participation and transparency in the municipal budgeting process; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's dismissive, disparaging and disrespectful treatment of Council members seeking information and exercising their oversight responsibilities further undermines the Council's ability to perform its duties on behalf of Vernon taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Anthony Rossi was censured unanimously by this council for conduct inconsistent with the duties of office and public trust on 23rd of March, 2026, and these behaviors have not ceased; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's conduct reflects a troubling disregard for the principles of transparency, accountability, and cooperation that should guide the administration of municipal government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the Council calls upon Mayor Anthony Rossi to resign from office by the 13th day of November, 2026 to avoid further actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council reaffirms its commitment to exercising its statutory investigative and oversight authority, ensuring public access to municipal financial information as provided by law, and maintaining a budget process that puts Vernon taxpayers first.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that this is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Council of the Township of Vernon at their Meeting held on November 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Vernon Municipal Center.

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Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

NAME	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Contino, C.						
Ooms S.						
Rizzuto P.						
Sparta B.						
Higgins, W.						