**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12.\_\_\_**

**OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

**OF THE BOROUGH OF BLOOMINGDALE**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILLS S 781 AND S 782 THAT ARE ATTEMPTING TO FURTHER REVISE OUR CURRENT OPRA AND OPMA LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, Senate bills S 781 and S 782 are attempting to further revise our current OPRA and OPMA laws in the name of transparency, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the position of the Governing Body of the Borough of Bloomingdale that the existing OPRA and OPMA laws already make municipalities transparent, and

**WHEREAS**, there comes a time when staffing and budget requirements are exhausted just to accommodate a select few people who bombard our municipalities with public records requests, and

**WHEREAS**, our website are always updated and contain all the information required by law; our meeting minutes are online and available by the next meeting or as soon as reasonably possible; our agendas and budgets are online for the public, and

**WHEREAS**, under the existing laws OPRA fees are reasonable for the amount of time and effort that must go into searching for “older” documents; it takes valuable time away from our staff – not only in the Clerk’s office – but also in many other departments that may be involved in the same request, and

**WHEREAS**, the OPRA law also allows outside business seeking construction permits and plans or animal rights groups to utilize municipal services for their private commercial gain, and

**WHEREAS**, the OPMA laws for Open Public Meetings, proposed changes will add secretarial expenses and additional reports to the cost of running subcommittee meetings, and

**WHEREAS**, subcommittee meetings are open to the public and rarely do people wish to come, and

**WHEREAS**, subcommittees are mostly volunteers along with representatives from the local governing body; to produce minutes in a formal fashion whether quarterly or semiannually would be another unfunded mandate, and

**WHEREAS**, subcommittees keep notes and any formal actions or expenditures come back to the main governing body for approval anyway.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bloomingdale respectfully requests the New Jersey Senate and Assembly take no further action on Senate bills S 781 and S 782.