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Subject: Comments on Agenda Items for Select Board Meeting of March 23, 2020

Comments for the Select Board of Arlington on agenda items for the meeting of March 23, 2020--

#8--The fifth paragraph of this item is also ambiguously written in a way that should concern Arlington residents, especially in combination with the sixth paragraph. There are no examples given of what "extraordinary actions" might be considered or any limits to what might be done, and there is not yet enough of a crisis to grant an unelected town manager such extraordinary powers, especially given that there is neither a sunset provision nor a requirement that the Select Board renew this power, which remains in effect until the Town Manager declares the State of Emergency no longer exists.

This is an anti-democratic measure, and I see nothing in the way this item is written that would prevent the Town Manager suspending the governance of the Select Board or Town meeting indefinitely as an extraordinary action.

We should not democratically vote away democracy!