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Subject: Tonight's Select Board Meeting - whither DEMOCRACY?

Dear Members of the Select Board and Arlington List Members;

Regarding the tonight's Select Board remote meeting alarming Agenda item concerning the Town of Arlington's Declaration of Emergency the final sentence is totally unacceptable. It should be amended so that it reads:

"The Declaration of Emergency remains in effect until the Select Board votes on a recommendation by the Town Manager that the State of Emergency no longer exists or after 60 days whichever first occurs."

The unelected town manager should not be allowed to make important policy decisions without the scrutiny and approval of the elected Select Board. The role of the Town Manager is to be advisory to the Select Board – see the Town Manager Act, Section 15 (f).

It is surprising that the Chair of the Select Board (who has the major responsibility for setting the Agenda) allowed this Agenda item without a correction which should certainly be made prior to a vote.

Patricia B. Worden