

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 72

DENIED February 18, 2016

WHEREAS, The City of Providence's cumulative deficit was \$8.5 million at June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Providence officials were making progress in reducing the city's cumulative deficit; and

WHEREAS, Providence ended the 2014-15 fiscal year with a \$5-million deficit, after officials initially predicted the shortfall would be minimal; and

WHEREAS, The most recent independent audit of the City of Providence shows the city's cumulative deficit is \$13.4 million; and

WHEREAS, Providence's residents have seen their property tax bills increase steadily over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Providence City Council to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent as efficiently and effectively as possible; and

WHEREAS, City officers and employees, as well as board and commission members, often participate in activities, outside of the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, In general, when a City officer and / or employee must travel, the City may cover the cost of travel; and

WHEREAS, Out of state travel costs can be very high, creating an additional financial burden for taxpayers who are already struggling to get by.

WHEREAS, It is imperative for Providence officials to mitigate cost overruns that may occur in the City's operating budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby prohibit the use of City funds to cover out of state travel costs for City officers, employees, and members of any City boards or commissions until Providence's \$13.4 million cumulative deficit has been eradicated. Employees may still travel out of state if they have been sponsored by an outside agency or are not billing the cost to the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Mayor and the Director of Human Resources.

IN CITY COUNCIL
FEB 18 2016

READ AND DENIED

Joan Kelly CLERK