

Shawn Selleck  
City Clerk  
Clerk of Council



Sheri A. Petronio  
First Deputy

Tina L. Mastroianni  
First Deputy

Angela J. Harris  
Second Deputy

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**MARCH 18, 2021**

**ELECTION OF ONE (1) MEMBER TO THE  
PROVIDENCE EXTERNAL REVIEW AUTHORITY (PERA)**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT MATOS** calls for Nominations of One (1) Member to the Providence External Review Authority (PERA).

**COUNCILWOMAN RYAN** Nominates **PHANIDA PHIVILAY**, and this nomination is Seconded by **COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI**.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT MATOS** calls for further Nominations and there being none, on motion of **COUNCILWOMAN RYAN**, Seconded by **COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI**, it is voted that Nominations be closed and the Clerk is directed to cast One Ballot for **PHANIDA PHIVILAY**.

The Clerk casts one ballot as directed.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT MATOS** thereupon declares **PHANIDA PHIVILAY** duly Elected as a member of the Providence External Review Authority (PERA), for the ensuing term of Three Years ending on December 31, 2023.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
**MAR 18 2021**

APPROVED:

 CLERK

## Petronio, Sheri

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**From:** Bouchard, Sean  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:31 PM  
**To:** Selleck, Shawn  
**Cc:** Petronio, Sheri  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of Recommendation

**From:** Harris, Mary Kay  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** Bouchard, Sean <Sbouchard@providenceri.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of Recommendation

fyi

**From:** David Henault <[oceanstatetackle@gmail.com](mailto:oceanstatetackle@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:04 AM  
**To:** Harris, Mary Kay <[Mharris@providenceri.gov](mailto:Mharris@providenceri.gov)>; B phivilay <[bbpk29@hotmail.com](mailto:bbpk29@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Letter of Recommendation

To Councilwoman Harris

I am writing in support the reappointment of Phanida Phivilay for the Providence External Review Board

I have known Phanida for a dozen years or more. She has worked for the state and nonprofits in many capacities. Her commitment to Providence and the community is unquestionable. She cares deeply about issues of social justice but approaches things with a balanced and logical perspective.

I know of her involvement in the Southeast Asian community where she spearheads fundraising, acts as a mentor for children in a camping program and has worked in community outreach.

Her resume is extensive and speaks volumes of her capabilities. I feel that her passion and commitment is where her real strength comes from. She has so many relationships that she has developed in these roles and she forges allegiances based on her intelligence, compassion and integrity.

I support her reappointment without reservation

Respectfully,

David Henault

Ocean State Tackle

401 749 3474

[Ocean State Tackle](#)

[Twitter Ocean State Tackle](#)

[Ocean State Tackle FB](#)

[YouTube](#)

March 4, 2021

Dear Providence External Review Authority,

This is a support letter for Phanida Phivilay to continue to serve as a Providence External Review Authority board member. I have known Phanida for over 10 years ago when I started working closely with the Laotian community. We have similar backgrounds of refugees coming to start our lives with our parents and siblings in Providence, RI following the war in Laos. We understand the hardship of families building a stable home and learning to navigate new systems in a different language.

Phanida has always been a strong advocate for the Southeast community and also for all people of color. Phanida has a long history of community service that dates back to when she served as board president of the Socio-Economic Development Center for Southeast Asians which has now been renamed the Center for Southeast Asians.

The city of Providence has a high Asian population and PERA is the only citizen police oversight board in Rhode Island. PERA is important to us because your agency investigates allegations of misconduct on the part of officers of the Providence Police Dept. We live in difficult time where there is a growing mistrust of Police Departments all over country. We would like to see all allegations to be investigated if misconduct complaints arise. I believe that Asian representation on the PERA board is needed in these current times where there is a rise in Anti-Asian violence in the country.

As a member of the Laotian Community, I recommend Phanida Phivilay to continue on being on the board of PERA. We are proud and grateful to have her. She keeps being a positive impact in the community and is an inspiration to us all. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Silaphone Nhongvongsouthy

Cell: 401-559-9054

Email: silaphone@gmail.com

March 4, 2021

Honorable Mary K. Harris  
Councilwoman – Ward 11  
Providence City Hall  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Councilwoman Harris:

I write to express my enthusiastic support of Phanida Phivilay for reappointment to the Providence External Review Authority (PERA) board.

I came to know Phanida and her talent while serving together on the Providence School Board. Through our service together, I came to know and appreciate Phanida's dedication to our community, her intellect and thoughtfulness, and her ability to lead towards meaningful results.

As president of the school board, I appointed Phanida to chair the board's Health and Wellness Committee. In short order, Phanida led the PPSD efforts to develop a Health & Wellness Policy that became a model for the state. Through her efforts, the Health & Wellness Committee became much more active and achieved meaningful outcomes for students. Still today, I remain impressed by her dedication, work ethic, and her leadership.

I have also come to know Phanida as a valued leader within our Cambodian community through her leadership of the Cambodian Society of R.I. Phanida is a well-respected voice for her community as well as an active civic leader in the Providence community. We all benefit from her civic engagement in our community institutions such as PERA. I am confident that she will contribute her independent judgement, insight and community perspective to the work of PERA and the important role that it plays in our community.

Once again, I wholeheartedly support Phanida's reappointment to the PERA board. I firmly believe that she will serve us well.

Warm regards,

Keith A. Oliveira

## Petronio, Sheri

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**From:** Bouchard, Sean  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:32 PM  
**To:** Selleck, Shawn  
**Cc:** Petronio, Sheri  
**Subject:** FW: Reinstatement of Phanida Phivilay

**From:** Harris, Mary Kay  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:29 PM  
**To:** Bouchard, Sean <Sbouchard@providenceri.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Reinstatement of Phanida Phivilay

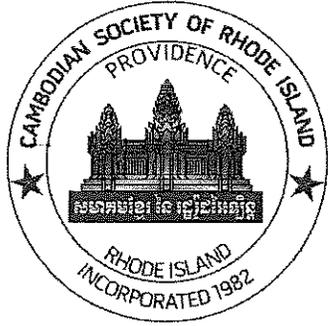
Fyi- letter 5

**From:** David Rudolph <davidjrudolph2002@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:25 PM  
**To:** Harris, Mary Kay <Mharris@providenceri.gov>  
**Cc:** B phivilay <bbpk29@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Reinstatement of Phanida Phivilay

Hello Councilwoman Harris,

I am sending this letter today (March 3 2021), on behalf of Phanida Phivilay. She is a passionate and practical advocate for her community, which has, in turn, granted her mutual respect and appreciation for her tireless work over the years. PERA would be well served to have her for an additional term; recent hardship across the state of Rhode Island must be met with leaders who possess the ability to match it, Phanida has such ability. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
David Rudolph



# Cambodian Society of Rhode Island

177 Hanover Street, Providence RI, 02907  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 73240, Providence, RI 02907  
Tel# 401-272-0033 Tel2# 401-272-0003

27 February 2021

Dear Councilwoman Harris,

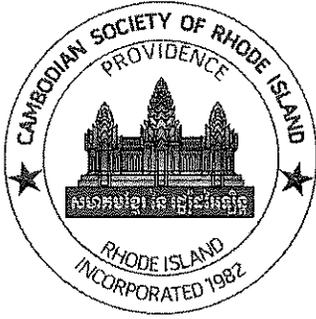
As President of the Cambodian Society of Rhode Island (CSRI) board, I would like to show my full support for Ms. Phanida Phivilay being reappointed onto the PERA board. Phanida has been serving on our organization's board as an advisor for several years now and I believe that she is the perfect candidate to be on the Providence External Review Authority.

Personally, I have known Phanida since 2016, at the time I was one of the youth leaders spearheading the Community Defense Project initiated by the Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM). I testified at public hearings and also helped fight for the Community Safety Act to be passed. With my background and knowledge between the relationships of the community and Providence Police I certainly know that Phanida belongs on the PERA board. On behalf of the Cambodian community in Providence, our people and other Southeast Asian (SEA) ethnicities are directly affected by Providence Police racial profiling. Having someone that knows our community as well as Phanida does on the PERA board is ideal in giving the SEA community a voice in police accountability.

Time and time again, Ms. Phivilay proves to be one of the most brilliant and resilient women I know. Without her, CSRI would have most likely not held free COVID-19 testing for the low-income in the 02907 area. Phanida acted as a liaison between the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Cambodian Society of Rhode Island. Every year she alone is able to acquire funds from large-local-organizations to sponsor our annual CSRI community camping trip. These are just some of the many examples where she has provided for the Southeast Asian community.

Even throughout a pandemic Ms. Phanida Phivilay still chooses to deliver and serve the community. An attribute that shows her good character and generosity. I, President Andy Chao, fully believe Phanida will continue to be a valuable team player and greatly contribute to PERA's mission.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Andy Chao  
CSRI President



# Cambodian Society of Rhode Island

177 Hanover Street, Providence RI, 02907

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 73240, Providence, RI 02907

Tel# 401-272-0033 Tel2# 401-272-0003

March 3, 2021

Dear Councilwoman Harris,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you today to provide my insurmountable support for Ms. Phanida Phivilay's re-appointment to the Providence External Review Authority (PERA) board. With her extensive background over the years, her perpetual involvement with the communities, particularly the Southeast Asian (SEA) Community, she is undeniably a remarkable woman who is well suited for the job.

I am currently serving my second term as Treasurer on the Cambodian Society of Rhode Island (CSRI) Board. Phanida and I have conversed at length via the board members portal before we finally met in person approximately a year and a half ago. The team have shared many praises and all the infamous stories of Phanida's ongoing devotion for CSRI. I was very pleased to appreciate the Phanida I have heard a great deal of carrying the same poise, humbleness and reputation in person. She is beyond an advisor to CSRI. Not only is she able to garner major sponsorships for our annual events, she continues to apprise us with opportunities to collaborate with other organizations. In light of the pandemic, CSRI joined West Elmwood Housing to educate low-income residents in the 02907 area about COVID-19. The CARES Act Grant afforded us to put together a care package for these citizens filled with personal protective equipment (PPE) and information how to minimize the spread of COVID-19. We teamed up with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the National Guard to offer COVID-19 testing free of charge to the public. I thoroughly enjoyed working side by side with Phanida at all these events. It is hard to put into words the amount of dedication Phanida has given to our organization as well as the SEA community in general.

As an immigrant coming to America, we all have our fair share of plight. Phanida's first hand account experience with language and cultural barriers inspired her to keep advocating for the less fortunate. She has served many boards throughout her career, but the most impressive title of all is the first elected female President of the S.E.D.C (Socio Economic Development Center for

Southeast Asians). She is a consummate teacher. I am confident with all these attributes, there is no better candidate than Phanida to be installed into the PERA panel again.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ratha Kwiat  
CSRI Treasurer

March 1, 2021

To all whom this may concern,

My name is Treina Santos, and I am writing this letter to express my full support of the reappointment of Ms. Phanida Phivilay as a board member for the Providence External Review Authority (PERA) committee for another term. As a member of the Providence community I have many concerns regarding the actions of the police within my community, as well as the steps that the city takes to both keep in check and rectify abuse of power and trust by sworn officers. Having known Ms. Phivilay since I first moved to this city two years ago, I can personally attest to her honesty, dependability, and sense of ethics.

In the time I've known Ms. Phivilay, although she did not live within Providence, I've witnessed first-hand her dedication towards the betterment of this community. Her love for this city and its residents is not something I can put into words, but her actions and active involvement within the community speak volumes of her investment and care. Most recently, Ms. Phivilay has been an invaluable help to this city in volunteering at Covid-19 testing sites as well as assisting in the distribution of personal protective equipment to underserved populations. Alongside her volunteer work, Ms. Phivilay also continuously works with the South East Asian population of Providence to help share information of resources available to those in need.

I believe that if Ms. Phivilay were to continue serving as a board member of PERA, she will undoubtedly continue to offer a reliable, trustworthy, and unbiased voice towards the investigations and disciplinary action recommendations upheld by the committee. With her previous experience of living within Providence as well as her experience serving on many boards for the city over multiple decades, I have the utmost trust in Ms. Phanida Phivilay to continue serving the community members of Providence with the care and attention we deserve.

Sincerely,  
Treina Santos  
Ward 12

February 25, 2021

Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris  
25 Dorrance St.  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Providence External Review Authority Board Reappointment of Ms. Phanida Phivilay

Dear Councilwoman Harris,

It is with honor and pleasure that I get this opportunity to support Ms. Phanida Phivilay regarding a reappointment consideration for a position with the Board of the Providence External Review Authority (PERA). I have known Ms. Phivilay on both a personal and professional level for many years. I have served on our then Mayor Angel Taveras' Southeast Asian Working Group alongside Ms. Phivilay and I can speak to her character as someone who is honest, thoughtful and compassionate. In addition, I have known Ms. Phivilay to be highly involved with our Southeast Asian community. Recently she has assisted in the coordination of making COVID-19 tests easily available to our underserved communities. As a board member of the Cambodian Society of Rhode Island, she has dedicated countless hours of her time and has shared her vast knowledge of resources. I am in full support of her reappointment to the PERA Board. To remove her from her current posting would be a disservice to your constituents and the entire Providence community.

Respectfully,

Ratkanhha Veronneau, MSW, LICSW  
Constituent Ward 14

2/25/2021

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Alicia Fernandes I have been a resident of the city of Providence for the past 22 years. I am happily writing a letter of support for Phanida Phivilay to be reappointed to The Providence external review Authority. I have had the privilege of knowing Phanida for a little over 4 years and in that short time have seen her do extensive outreach and support in the Providence community.

I had the opportunity to have her as a mentor who taught me the process and procedures for the Ryan White program but also how to have compassion and empathy for the large amount of Rhode Island residents that we helped serve who were living with HIV and AIDS.

Phanida was a huge asset while running this program for the Rhode Island Population living with HIV and AIDS. She had interaction with multiple Providence based Aids assistance agencies and assisted with outreach with helping Providence Residence with HIV/AIDS with assistance for Medication as well as helping them find other resources for housing and cash assistance.

More recently during the Pandemic I have seen Phanida reach out and work multiple COVID-19 testing events and distribute PPE in collaboration with the Cambodian Society of Rhode Island, and Laotian Community.

Phanida has been a great asset to the SEA Community, and they look at her not only as a leader but also an advocate. I believe she will continue to be an asset to the Providence external review Authority and help to make decisions using her past experience and knowledge assisting the Providence community. During COVID-19, she continuously volunteered, but also, I seen she was an advocate for many SEA who were experiencing racism and discrimination. She was an advocate, a voice for them. Connecting them to Attorney General office or City resources. She has and will always be fully invested in Providence, as she always says Providence has been her heart. Phanida was a Providence native for 30 plus years, growing up in Smith Hill area and was a biproduct of Providence Public Schools, which is where I reside currently. She fled here from Laos in the early 80s as a refugee with her parents. I fully support her reappointment to PERA. I hope the City Council will consider her reappointment.

Thank you,

Alicia Fernandes

4 Osborn St

Providence, RI 02908