

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 203

*Approved* March 28, 2011

WHEREAS, The City of Providence faces a structural deficit in the current fiscal year and for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, A growing percentage of the City's revenue is generated through levying taxes; and

WHEREAS, The City's revenue structure increasingly burdens residents and encumbers economic expansion; and

WHEREAS, The City's ability to attract new businesses and homeowners is dependent on the predictability and equity of its revenue structure; and

WHEREAS, It is the goal of the City Council to increase revenues not through year over year tax increases, but by implementing a revenue structure that is enticing to investment, thereby expanding the tax base in future years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That it is in the interest of the City of Providence and its tax payers to evaluate the equity, competitiveness, sustainability, and efficiency of the current revenue structure with the intention of making revisions to encourage investment and long-term economic growth.

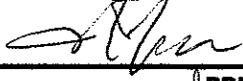
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That

- 1) The President of the City Council shall empanel a Commission on Revenue Sustainability and Efficiency, to include nine (9) members as follows:
  - a. two (2) members of the City Council; and,
  - b. one (1) member from the business community; and,
  - c. one (1) representative of the non-profit sector; and,
  - d. one (1) member of the community, who shall chair the Commission; and,
  - e. the Director of Administration, or the director's designee; and,
  - f. three (3) Mayoral appointees, one of whom shall be from a non-profit.
- 2) The Commission shall,
  - a. be assisted in their deliberations by staffs of the Finance Department and Office of the Tax Assessor, with data provided by any and all relevant City departments;
  - b. evaluate and analyze all revenue information obtained;
  - c. assess the implications of the current revenue structure and compare to any and all municipal structures applicable, but namely neighboring cities of similar size to ensure competitiveness;
  - d. consider the long-term sustainability of the current revenue structure using out-year predictions for expenditure growth, which shall reflect agreed upon economic forecasting standards for both revenue and expenditure projections;

- e. review and assess the incidence of the property tax among various ownership groups as well as map and model all revenue projections resulting from recommendations; and,
- f. ensure the Commission's procedures and findings are transparent, by (1) naming advisory panels and (2) publishing all meeting minutes, gathered information, and reports through any available media channel and make all information accessible on the Internet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission shall issue a report to the full City Council by July 1, 2011 on the City's revenue structure, which shall include recommended changes to taxes, exemptions, rates and base changes.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 17 2011  
READ AND PASSED

  
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PRES.  
  
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CLERK

APPROVED  
  
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MAYOR 3-28-11