

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 117

Approved March 2, 2015

WHEREAS, Robert “Bob” McMahon is a lifelong Rhode Island resident; and

WHEREAS, He graduated from Brown University with a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1968; and

WHEREAS, He served his country in the United States Navy from 1969 to 1971 aboard the U.S.S. Arlington and the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy; and

WHEREAS, He completed his master’s degree in city planning from the University of Rhode Island in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his employment with the City, he served for four years as the first Executive Director of Keep Providence Beautiful (now Groundwork Providence); and

WHEREAS, In 1986, he became Deputy Superintendent of the Providence Parks Department; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, he was appointed Superintendent of Parks; and

WHEREAS, He worked for six different mayors and was instrumental to the completion of many major projects, including building Waterplace Park, the downtown skating center, and the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center; and

WHEREAS, He was an integral part of the modernization of the Roger Williams Park Zoo, bringing in highly acclaimed new exhibits, constantly improving programming, and helping make it the first zoo in New England to earn accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, he oversaw the merger of the departments of Parks and Recreation and became the first superintendent of the new combined department; and

WHEREAS, He worked extensively with community groups, such as Partners for Providence Parks, to improve and expand neighborhood parks, including 11 new water parks, nine new community gardens, and dozens of new walking tracks; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work in the Parks Department, Bob has been a dedicated a long-time volunteer at and supporter of many local causes, especially the San Miguel School and Sofia Academy, schools dedicated to providing high quality education to at-risk students who face economic inequities in the Providence area; and

WHEREAS, He is an active member of the Saint Pius V Parish and was a long-time parishioner at Saint Sebastian's Church in Providence; and

WHEREAS, Bob is retiring after 29 years of dedicated service to the City of Providence; and

WHEREAS, Known throughout Providence for his professionalism, expertise, and humility, Bob has been an exemplary City employee and the very model of what a public servant should be; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to Bob's incredible stewardship of and vision for Providence's parks, countless children, families, and residents will enjoy a world-class parks system for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby recognize and thank Robert F. McMahon for his decades of outstanding service to the people of Providence, and wishes him the very best in his retirement.

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 19 2015

READ AND PASSED

[Signature]
PRES.

[Signature]
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]

Mayor

Date: 3/2/15