

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 220

Approved June 2, 2017

WHEREAS, Removing barriers and expanding opportunities for students to achieve their highest potential is central to the work and mission of the Providence City Council (PCC) to prepare students to succeed in the nation's colleges and universities and in their chosen profession; and

WHEREAS, PCC is focused on improving students' academic readiness to ensure that students graduate on time and are prepared for college, career, and life; and

WHEREAS, Education is the prominent civil rights issue of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Providence Public School Department is to provide all children with a quality K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, In today's economy, most citizens require education beyond a high school diploma in order to have access to full participation in the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, Many of Providence's students are deprived of the opportunity of a quality postsecondary education due to a lack of access to adequate financial resources; and

WHEREAS, Providence's children and their families will benefit from greater opportunities to save for their children's post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, Financial barriers to higher education are especially significant for Providence students, eighty-six percent of whom are eligible for free and reduced school lunches because their family's income is at or near poverty level; and

WHEREAS, The PCC believes that all students should have the opportunity to pursue the pathway of their choice to succeed in life and that no student should be discouraged from pursuing a college degree due to an inability to afford tuition, board, room, fees and books; and

WHEREAS, Providence Promise will provide funds to supplement the payments required for tuition, board, room, fees and books for the post-secondary education of participating Providence public school students; and

WHEREAS, The family's contribution will be based on income and the student will also make an additional contribution after completing his or her higher education program based on his or her income; and

WHEREAS, The families and the students will not be burdened with family and student loans; and

WHEREAS, Such a financing program will increase the opportunities for Providence students and provide them with a more tangible future to aim for while in school; and

WHEREAS, Such a matching financing program that includes the parents, their children and private funding will encourage Providence parents to invest in their child's future and to increase their involvement and support of public education.

WHEREAS, The PCC previously expressed its support for the Providence Promise by its Resolution No. 469 on October 23, 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council endorses the concept of the Providence Promise, which will give Providence public school students the ability to pursue a higher education program of their choice at a technical or trade school or at a two- or four-year college or university by minimizing the financial barrier for these students and their families.

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 24 2017

READ AND PASSED

Salvino Mato
PRES.

Joseph...
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE

[Signature]
Mayor
Date: 6/2/17