

**CITY OF PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND**



CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 19 City Council Regular Council Meeting, Thursday, July 1, 2021, 6:00 o'clock P.M.

PRESIDING

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT
JOHN J. IGLIOZZI**

CALL TO ORDER

**IN CITY COUNCIL
JUL 15 2021**

APPROVED:
James Mastrosimone CLERK

ACTING

PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT IGLIOZZI, COUNCILWOMEN ANTHONY, CASTILLO, COUNCILMEN CORREIA, ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS, COUNCILORS KERWIN, MILLER, COUNCILWOMAN RYAN, COUNCILOR SALVATORE AND COUNCILMAN TAYLOR – 12.

ABSENT: COUNCILWOMAN LAFORTUNE AND COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI – 2.

ALSO PRESENT: TINA L. MASTROIANNI, FIRST DEPUTY CITY CLERK, SHERI A. PETRONIO, FIRST DEPUTY CITY CLERK, ANGELA J. HARRIS, SECOND DEPUTY CITY CLERK AND JEFFREY DANA, CITY SOLICITOR

(SUBSEQUENTLY, COUNCILWOMAN LAFORTUNE JOINS THE MEETING)

INVOCATION

The Invocation is given by **REVEREND NATHAN RICCI, VICE CHANCELLOR, DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE.**

"Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank You for showering Your blessings upon this our beloved Nation, State and Capital City which bears the title Providence named after Your watchful and powerful care. Bless all here present and all across this Capital City who work tirelessly each day for justice and peace. We thank You for the gift of life and liberty. Make us grateful for those who have given their lives and paid the ultimate price defending our freedom. As we celebrate Independence Day, we too give You thanks for all our women and men in uniform who give everything so all Americans can live freely in the pursuit of happiness. We pray good and gracious God, that truth, goodness and beauty might shine brightly here in this city eradicating the darkness of injustice, bigotry, lies and hatred that threatens the common good. God of power and might, we ask Your assistance upon those who govern us, especially the members of this City Council. Help them and their desire to be wise, prudent and just for the good of all Providence. Most of all Almighty God, we thank You for the great gift of this city, may it shine brightly before all and witness the joy that comes from You alone. For you live and reign forever and ever. Amen."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MR. PETER RICCI Leads the Members of the City Council and the Assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem is given by ANDREA CRUZ, SENIOR, E3 ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL.

OPENING REMARKS

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT IGLIOZZI, COUNCILWOMEN ANTHONY, CASTILLO, COUNCILMEN CORREIA, ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS, COUNCILOR KERWIN, COUNCILWOMAN LAFORTUNE, COUNCILOR MILLER, COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI, COUNCILWOMAN RYAN, COUNCILOR SALVATORE AND COUNCILMAN TAYLOR

Resolution in Honor and Celebration of Independence Day.

WHEREAS, Independence Day is the federal holiday celebrated annually on July 4th to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence in which America's thirteen colonies first united in their belief that they could no longer be subjects of the King of England but rather a free and independent nation; and

WHEREAS, In the two hundred and forty-five years since the birth of our nation, America has been forced to overcome immense challenges, both domestically and internationally, that have helped to shape the very meaning of what is to be a citizen of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The outbreak of COVID-19 and the ensuing pandemic have been the latest test of the nation's character as it plunged the entire country into quarantine and isolation, with certain restrictions only just being lifted in the past few weeks due to the deployment of highly effective vaccines; and

WHEREAS, While COVID-19 has taken an immense toll on our country over the past eighteen months, at times stretching our resources and communities to the breaking point, it has also affirmed the nation's incredible compassion, fortitude, and resiliency in the face of unprecedented hardship; and

WHEREAS, This year's Independence Day celebration would not be possible without the tireless efforts of healthcare workers, epidemiologists, researchers, and all frontline workers who persevered in the fight against COVID-19 in order to save the lives of countless individuals across the country and bought time for the development and deployment of vaccines that have made such a tremendous impact in bringing the pandemic under control; and

WHEREAS, With the City Council gathering for the first time in person since the outbreak of the pandemic, it is only appropriate that we take the time to properly celebrate the Independence of our country, our state, and our local communities as we finally begin to heal from the losses and devastation from the past 18 months, and look toward health and prosperity for our city, our nation, and our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Providence City Council hereby celebrates this year's Independence Day in honor of all frontline workers who sacrificed so much in order to save countless lives, helped to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, and kept our grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential services open.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Providence City Council wishes the entire Providence community and all residents of the State of Rhode Island a very happy Independence Day, and encourages safe celebrations this holiday weekend.

RESULT: READ AND PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Councilman Taylor

SECONDER: Councilwoman Harris

AYES: Council President Igliazzi, Councilwomen Anthony, Castillo, Councilmen Correia, Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwoman Harris, Councilor Kerwin, Councilwoman LaFortune, Councilor Miller, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Salvatore and Councilman Taylor – 13.

ABSENT: Councilman Narducci – 1.

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

COUNCILOR MILLER Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

"First of all thank you for giving us this opportunity to gather together in person today. It's deeply meaningful for many of us and there is lots to celebrate being able to be here together, but as we're here tonight, Mr. Governor, Mr. Mayor and Mr. President, I have to say this afternoon as we're getting ready to celebrate freedom, not just for the 4th of July, but freedom from this lockdown and many things we've been facing over this last year. This afternoon I was on Sayles Street and I heard from a family that does not feel free today, that feels instead terrorized, that feels assaulted by public servants who work for this city. So, I am just asking all of us as we're here today that we keep in mind that just two days ago the Providence Police assaulted and pepper sprayed a child as young as one years old. A child who had been undergoing cancer treatment whose is fourteen, but there was a child who held his brother in his arms to protect him from the people who are sworn to protect and serve this city. I was there this afternoon and I heard from the family, I saw the terror and pain on their faces and I cannot be here tonight celebrating freedom without recognizing this. As many people better than me have said before that none of us are free until we are all free, but we cannot move forward tonight without recognizing what happened and we have to work together to call for accountability to what happened on Tuesday. We cannot let our city feel what they felt on Tuesday and not acknowledge it, taking accountability and see the truth of the matter and act together. I appreciate this. Thank you."

COUNCILWOMAN LAFORTUNE Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

"I first want to thank Councilor Miller for her powerful words, I truly appreciate it. As I was making my way here earlier I was thinking about the families and the people who are on Sayles Street who were impacted by this incident. I was thinking about the video that I watched where a father who was watching his daughter get apprehended by the police and he kept saying she is not resisting, she is not resisting and you can hear it in his voice. He wants to protect his child, but he also has to make choices because there are certain choices that if he makes and if he reacts it might cost him his life. So, it's very difficult for me personally to be here and to celebrate and I recognize that we do have many heroes. We have some police officers who have done some amazing work in our city, who have made great contributions, but when you're seeing these types of incidents, when there is a lack of accountability and we've been talking about accountability for quite some time. There was an opportunity for us to ensure that there was some sort of police reform that was established when we were in the midst of negotiating the contract. It was a missed opportunity, so we can't continue year after year, days after days, months after months talking about police reform, talking about accountability measures. It has to happen now. These kids are going to be traumatized for the rest of their life. I will share a personal story. When I lived in Philadelphia, I will never forget this, we were in our home, I was leaving to go to work and we heard knocking on our door and we weren't sure where it was coming from and when I opened the back door there was a police officer with his gun drawn.

They ended up coming into our house and searching our home only to find out it was the wrong address. I remember that very day I went to the police station because I did not want my son growing up to fear the police. I wanted him to be able to call the police if he was in trouble, that he knew he was protected by the police. So, if you have children who are in the neighborhood when there is a dispute between adults that could have been de-escalated and they're the ones who are being attacked. Think about the long term trauma. Asking for accountability does not mean we dislike the police or we hate the police. My great uncle was a police officer in Haiti, my cousin was an NYPD, my sister served in the military. It has nothing to do with disliking the police. It's called accountability because everyone deserves quality of life. That could have been anyone of our children. So, I don't want to talk about it anymore. I want to see action. I want the Mayor to hold our Police Department accountable. Chief Clements, you know I have so much respect for you, and I do Commissioner, have so much respect for you as well, but we can't continue in this direction. Something has to be done. So, I do hope that this is a lesson and that this doesn't happen again in the future and also with our Governor that he puts measures in place so that we can hold police officers accountable across the board whether you live in Providence, Johnston, Central Falls, North Providence, Woonsocket, wherever, this has to stop. We're lucky none of those children lost their lives. I don't want to make national news. So, I do hope that after today we don't see these types of incident, but there are accountability measures that are put in place and we don't hear fathers pleading to the police officers so that their child is not hurt. Thank you very much Council President, thank you Mayor, thank you Governor, thank you Chief, thank you Commissioner for your service I truly appreciate it and I do hope that we all can work collaboratively to make our city safe for every single resident."

COUNCILOR KERWIN Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

"Thank you Council President and thank you Councilor Miller and Councilwoman LaFortune. I want to echo the words of Councilwoman LaFortune and Councilor Miller. I was also on Sayles Street today and there were dozens of community members there with tears in their eyes listening to this family tell horrible stories that I won't repeat because there are videos that you can all go see that will break your heart. What that family endured should not be happening anywhere and it shouldn't be happening in our city. It is despicable and it is not an isolated incident. We know this because it is not a one time thing and this family deserves better. Today, what they asked for is a public apology that's it. Their kids, Councilwoman LaFortune is right they could have lost their five year old and their nine year old was unconscious and had to receive medical attention. They could have lost them and they just want an apology. So, I hope that after this celebration we can come together and deliver more than that because they deserve so much more than what they are asking for. They deserve real accountability, they deserve justice and I know we are better than this. Thank you."

COUNCIL PRESIDENT IGLIOZZI, COUNCILWOMEN ANTHONY, CASTILLO, COUNCILMEN CORREIA, ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS, COUNCILOR KERWIN, COUNCILWOMAN LAFORTUNE, COUNCILOR MILLER, COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI, COUNCILWOMAN RYAN, COUNCILOR SALVATORE AND COUNCILMAN TAYLOR

Resolution Awarding Peter Ricci the Municipal Medal for Deeds of Bravery.

WHEREAS, Peter Ricci was born in Providence on May 14, 1920 and was a longtime resident of the Silver Lake neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, In December of 1943, Mr. Ricci was drafted into the United States Navy where he served as a Motor Machinists Mate Third Class aboard the USS Superior, a minesweeping vessel; and

WHEREAS, During Mr. Ricci's service aboard the USS Superior he received several medals including the World War II Victory Medal, the American Theatre Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Theatre Medal, Four Bronze Stars, and the Minecraft Shoulder Insignia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ricci, along with the thousands of other Rhode Islanders who served in World War II, is a shining example of what it means to be an American and to answer the call to service for the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence hereby awards Mr. Peter Ricci with the Municipal Medal for Deeds of Bravery for his exemplary service in the United States Navy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution will be sent to the Mayor of Providence and Mr. Peter Ricci.

RESULT:	READ AND PASSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Councilman Taylor
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Harris
AYES:	Council President Igliazzi, Councilwomen Anthony, Castillo, Councilmen Correia, Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwoman Harris, Councilor Kerwin, Councilwoman LaFortune, Councilor Miller, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Salvatore and Councilman Taylor – 13.
ABSENT:	Councilman Narducci – 1.

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND CITATIONS

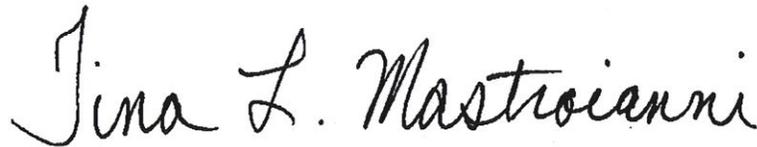
The Municipal Medal for Deeds of Bravery will be awarded to Peter Ricci, David Doti and Gary Kraus.

City Council Citations will be awarded to Major Michael Correia, Major Robert Lepre and William Bombard.

CLOSING REMARKS

CONVENTION

There being no further business, on Motion of **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR**, Seconded by **COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS**, it is voted to adjourn in memory of Retired Deputy Assistant Chief Paul A. Wentworth at 7:18 o'clock P.M., to meet again **THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021 at 6:00 o'clock P.M.**



TINA L. MASTROIANNI
FIRST CITY CLERK