

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 160

Approved March 6, 2015

WHEREAS, According to the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, over 4,000 Rhode Islanders experienced homelessness in 2014, including 535 families, 986 children, and 285 veterans; and

WHEREAS, 545 homeless Rhode Islanders required 1,808 emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, 335 homeless Rhode Islanders reported 981 incidents with law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Over 50% of Rhode Island's homeless population have a disability; and

WHEREAS, More than one third of homeless Rhode Islanders sleep unsheltered outdoors; and

WHEREAS, "Zero: 2016" is a national initiative to end homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015 and end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016; and

WHEREAS, Zero: 2016 is being run by Community Solutions, an independent non-profit organization dedicated to helping communities develop systems-level solutions to their most complex social problems; and

WHEREAS, Community Solutions has organized many successful campaigns combating poverty and promoting social justice, including the "100,000 Homes" initiative, which has already exceeded its goal by placing 105,500 homeless individuals, including more than 31,000 veterans, in permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is one of 71 communities around the nation selected to participate in Zero: 2016; and

WHEREAS, Through a statewide partnership of government representatives, business leaders, local law enforcement, neighborhood associations, and concerned citizens, Zero: 2016 organized a "Registry Week" effort to help identify and categorize over 900 Rhode Islanders experiencing homeless, 58% of whom have been homeless for over two years; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's participation in Zero: 2016 provides access to technical assistance that will help our state utilize our existing resources to house people more efficiently and effectively by closing the research-to-practice gap, streamlining local systems data and management, and supporting leadership development; and

WHEREAS, The Zero: 2016 campaign advances the goals of *Opening Doors Rhode Island*, the State of Rhode Island's strategic plan to end homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council supports the Zero: 2016 campaign to end homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015 and end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, the President of Crossroads Rhode Island, the President of Amos House, the Director of the RI Department of Human Services, the members of the Providence delegation in the General Assembly, and the Mayor.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 05 2015

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 3/6/15