

CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
RHODE ISLAND



CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

---

No. 116 City Council Special Meeting, Thursday, October 27, 1994, 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.)

---

PRESIDING

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JAMES A. PETROSINELLI

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC 1 1994

APPROVED:

*Michael L. Clement*  
CLERK

ROLL CALL

**Present:** Council President Petrosinelli,  
Councilmen Clarkin, DeLuca, Dillon,  
Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fagnoli, Council-  
men Fenton, Glavin, Igliozi, Lombardi,  
Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman  
Rollins, Councilwomen Williams and  
Young—15.

**Absent:** None.

## INVOCATION

The Invocation is given by COUNCIL-  
WOMAN RITA M. WILLIAMS.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COUNCILWOMAN PATRICIA K. NOLAN  
leads the members of the City Council and  
the Assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance  
to the Flag of the United States of America.

## CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Honorable Michael R. Clement  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, RI 02903

October 24, 1994

From: The undersigned members of the City  
Council:

In accordance with Section 406 of the City

Charter, as members of the Providence City  
Council, we hereby direct you to call for a special  
meeting of the City Council to be held in the  
Council Chambers on Thursday, October 27, 1994  
at 5:00 o'clock p.m. relative to Resolutions dealing  
with the Police Detail Account.

Resolution Requesting the Attorney General of  
the State of Rhode Island to investigate the  
Providence Police Detail Account for the years  
1989 to 1994.

Resolution Requesting the Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island to conduct or cause to be conducted a forensic audit of the Providence Police Detail Account for the years 1989 to 1994.

JOSEPH DeLUCA

RITA M. WILLIAMS

BALBINA A. YOUNG

JOSHUA N. FENTON

THOMAS M. GLAVIN

Received.

## FROM THE CITY CLERK

The City Clerk reads the following Warrant with the City Sergeant's Return endorsed thereon, certifying that he did notify the Members of the City Council of the Special Meeting to be held Thursday, October 27, 1994 at 5:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) by Personally Delivering a Copy of the Warrant on October 25, 1994.

October 25, 1994

TO RALPH GUGLIELMINO,  
CITY SERGEANT:

Whereas, Council Members of the City of Providence have, pursuant to Sections 406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, requested the City Clerk, in writing, to Call a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on the 27th day of October A.D., 1994, at 5:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) for the purpose of Enacting the following:

Resolution Requesting the Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island to investigate the Providence Police Detail Account for the years 1989 to 1994.

Resolution Requesting the Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island to conduct or cause to

be conducted a forensic audit of the Providence Police Detail Account for the years 1989 to 1994.

You are therefore, hereby commanded and required to summon each Member of the City Council to that Special Meeting, as Called.

Hereof, Fail Not, and make true return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon.

Given under my Hand and Official Seal of the City of Providence, State of Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations this 25th Day of October, A.D., 1994.

MICHAEL R. CLEMENT  
City Clerk

October 25, 1994

I, Ralph Guglielmino, City Sergeant, do hereby certify that I have notified each Member of the City Council of the Special Meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 27, 1994 at 5:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) in the Chamber of the City Council, City Hall, Providence, in accordance

with the subject warrant by delivering to each member, a copy thereof.

Received.

RALPH P. GUGLIELMINO  
*City Sergeant*

## PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Requesting the Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island to investigate the Providence Police Detail Account for the years 1989 to 1994.

be conducted a forensic audit of the Providence Police Detail Account for the years 1989 to 1994.

*Resolved*, That the Providence City Council does hereby request the Joint Committee on Legislative Services to request the Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island, or the Office, to conduct or cause to be conducted a Forensic Audit of the Providence Police Detail Account pursuant to the Statute of Limitations.

Resolution Requesting the Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island to conduct or cause to

## PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

**COUNCILMAN DeLUCA requests to speak on a Point of Personal Privilege and states:**

"Mr. President. We addressed this matter last week with limited and unsatisfactory results. The Resolution we passed was very limited and touched on the conduct of only two individuals. They have not acted on that Resolution.

I think that the City Council needs a complete investigation of the Police Detail Account. We do not wish to interfere in any way with the other

investigations. This meeting was called to deal with the whole matter and to assert the Council's powers of oversight over the Administration, according to the City Charter Sections 402 and 403. Since the last Council Meeting, more information has come out in the Providence Journal. The appearance of a cover-up by the Mayor and his Administration has not been dispelled.

The Mayor and the involved Officials have completely ignored this Council. The Commissioner of Public Safety has been communicating with the Press but not with the City Council.

The City denies the Providence Journal access to public documents. The only information this Council has is from the Providence Journal, individual Council members on this floor have asserted that the Attorney General would carry out a complete investigation of the Police Detail Account and so we did not need the supervision of the Internal Auditor.

Why hasn't the Council received a copy of the Internal Affairs report?

Why don't we have copies of the two prior investigations of the Police Detail Account?

What happened to these reports and who has them? (They are public documents).

Why was the Journal denied access?

Do we have access to these records?

The refusal of the Mayor to have City Officials step aside pending this investigation only fuels the scandal.

The Commissioner of Public Safety should have brought this problem to the attention of the City Council.

I want all officials involved in this matter at a public hearing to answer the questions of this Council. (As Section 403 of the Charter requires).

I recommend we appoint the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, the Majority Leader, the

Minority Leader as a Committee, to represent the Council in this matter working with the Internal Auditor to secure the reports we need and keep the Council informed on the progress or lack of progress in the State's Investigation.

Then we can make decisions on what Council has to do to fulfill its duty under Sections 402 and 403 of the City Charter.

Now, a Forensic Audit. Such assertions were not backed up by any official communication to this Council from the A.G.'s Office, nor from the Administration. This Council knows nothing official to provide a foundation for the exercise of one of its most important duties — Investigative Oversight and its powers to remove City Officials for neglect of duty or dishonest conduct. That is why we called this meeting.

A. To pass Resolutions covering the entire Police Detail Account and satisfy the intention of the Council to have this whole matter investigated.

B. To establish a line of communication between the Council and the State so that the exercise of our powers does not interfere with the work of the A.G.'s Office or the State Police.

We do not want to interfere with the State Investigation. But, we want to be certain that there will be a complete investigation and that the material is made available to them.

## PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN moves that the Resolutions be Severally Read and Collectively Passed.

This motion is seconded by COUNCILMAN DeLUCA.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN moves that "Resolution Requesting the Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island to conduct or cause to be conducted a Forensic Audit of the Providence Police Detail Account for the years 1989 to 1994" be amended to read as follows: "Resolution that the Providence City Council does hereby request the Joint Committee on Legislative Services to request the Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island or his office to conduct or cause to be conducted, a Forensic Audit of the Providence Police Detail Account pursuant to the Statute of Limitations".

This motion is seconded by COUNCILMAN DeLUCA.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN thereupon moves that the Resolution be Read and Passed, as Amended.

This motion being seconded by COUNCILMAN DeLUCA is Put to Vote and Passed, by a Voice Vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSINELLI desires to be recorded as voting "No".

The motion for Passage, as Amended, is Sustained.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN moves that "Resolution Requesting the Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island to investigate the Providence Police Detail Account for the years 1989 to 1994" be Layed on the Clerk's Desk.

This motion being seconded by COUNCILMAN FENTON is Put to Vote and Passed by a Voice Vote.

COUNCILMAN DeLUCA desires to be recorded as voting "No".

The motion to Lay on the Clerk's Desk, is Sustained.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN FENTON, the City Council adjourns at 6:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.).

*Michael R. Clement*

City Clerk

October 27]

2499

[1994

October 27]

2500

[1994