

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 459

Approved November 24, 2025

WHEREAS, Cooperative enterprises allow workers, buyers, and others to directly own the businesses they work in or patronize; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative enterprises, particularly worker cooperatives, create stability in economic development by promoting the welfare of the owners and the communities they operate in over mere profit and ensuring that the needs of owners are balanced and met; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative enterprises, particularly worker cooperatives, promote egalitarian decision-making, strengthen democratic norms, and create shared responsibility among members; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 to be the International Year of Cooperatives in recognition and encouragement of cooperative enterprises; and

WHEREAS, Co-op Month has been celebrated in the month of October since 1964 in recognition of the contributions that cooperative enterprises make to communities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Through the efforts of labor organizers and aspirant worker-owners, the State of Rhode Island has advanced the recognition of worker cooperatives through Chapter 6 of Title 7 of the Rhode Island General Laws, enacted in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Providence worker cooperatives, such as White Electric Coffee, and hybrid cooperatives, such as Heartleaf Books, provide their workers with meaningful control over their working lives while providing patrons superlative and unique experiences; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council wishes to earnestly recognize the contributions of cooperative enterprises to economic growth, to social development, and to the dignity of working people.

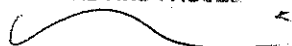
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council recognizes the contributions of cooperative enterprises to the life, prosperity, and welfare of the people of Providence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council recognizes 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives and encourages the City to support cooperative enterprises in its efforts to further economic development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the office of Mayor Brett P. Smiley, to City of Providence Director of Economic Development Edwin Carr, to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island Sabina Matos, and to the Rhode Island Worker Cooperative Alliance.

IN CITY COUNCIL

NOV 20 2025
READ AND PASSED



RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 11/24/25