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CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
RHODE ISLAND



CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 16 City Council Special Meeting, Wednesday, July 21, 1999, 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.)

PRESIDING

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHN J. LOMBARDI

IN CITY COUNCIL  
OCT. 7 1999

READ AND APPROVED

*Richard R. Clement*

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Lombardi,  
Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin,  
Councilwoman DiRuzzo, Councilmen Has-  
sett, Igliozzi, Jackson, Mancini, Council-  
women Nolan, Romano and Young—13.

Absent: Councilman DeLuca and Council-  
woman Williams—2.

# INVOCATION

The Invocation is given by COUNCILWOMAN PATRICIA K. NOLAN.

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

COUNCILWOMAN BALBINA A. YOUNG 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 A SPECIAL MEETING

## COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHN J. LOMBARDI

Communication dated July 19, 1999, Informing the Honorable City Clerk that he is this day calling a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on Wednesday, the 21st day of July 1999 at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

July 19, 1999

Honorable Michael R. Clement  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Clement:

In accordance with the Provisions of Section 406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of

1980, I am this day calling a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on Wednesday, the 21st day of July 1999 at 8:00 o'clock P.M. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall for the purpose of acting upon the following:

An Ordinance providing for the assessment and collection of 1999 taxes in a sum of not less than two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) and not more than two hundred twenty million dollars (\$220,000,000) being based on one hundred percent (100%) of the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year tax collections.

An Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 1998-34, approved July 23, 1998, of the Ordinances of the City of Providence, making an appropriation of four hundred thirteen million, five hundred sixty-nine thousand, seven hundred thirty-one dollars (\$413,569,731) for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2000, as amended.

An Ordinance establishing a compensation plan for the City of Providence and repealing Ordinance Chapter 1998-35, approved July 23, 1998, as amended.

An Ordinance establishing the classes of positions, the maximum number of employees and the number of employees in certain classes in the City Departments and repealing Ordinance Chapter 1998-36, approved July 23, 1998, as amended.

Resolution Requesting reconsideration of Resolution Number 167, approved March 26, 1999, relating to the execution of agreement between the City of Providence, the Water Supply Board and Fleet National Bank for a one year demand note in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000), as amended.

JOHN J. LOMBARDI  
*City Council President*

Received.

## FROM THE CITY CLERK WARRANT FOR SPECIAL MEETING

The 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 on Wednesday, July 21, 1999, 8:00 o'clock P.M. (EDT) by person-

ally delivering a copy of the Warrant on July 19, 1999.

July 19, 1999

*To Ralph Guglielmino, City Sergeant:*

*Whereas*, Council President John J. Lombardi has, pursuant to Section 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 21st day of July, A.D., 1999, at 8:00 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of enacting the following:

An Ordinance providing for the assessment and collection of 1999 taxes in a sum of not less than two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) and not more than two hundred twenty million dollars (\$220,000,000) being based on one hundred percent (100%) of the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year tax collections.

An Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 1998-34, approved July 23, 1998, of the Ordinances of the City of Providence, making an appropriation of four hundred thirteen million, five hundred sixty-nine thousand, seven hundred thirty-one dollars (\$413,569,731) for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2000, as amended.

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An Ordinance establishing the classes of positions, the maximum number of employees and the number of employees in certain classes in the City Departments and repealing Ordinance Chapter 1998-36, approved July 23, 1998, as amended.

Resolution Requesting reconsideration of Resolution Number 167, approved March 26, 1999, relating to the execution of agreement between the City of Providence, the Water Supply Board and Fleet National Bank for a one year demand note in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000), as amended.

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

Given under my hand and Official Seal of the City of Providence, this 19th day of July, A.D., 1999.

MICHAEL R. CLEMENT  
*City Clerk*

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 Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 8:00 o'clock P.M. in the Chamber of the City Council, City Hall, Providence, in accordance with the subject warrant by delivering to each member, a copy thereof.

RALPH GUGLIELMINO  
*City Sergeant*

Received.

## RULE SUSPENSION

COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG, moves to suspend Rule 14 of the Rules of the Providence City Council and take No. 7 of the City Council Special Docket out of order.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication from Councilman Joseph DeLuca, dated July 20, 1999, to the Honorable Members of the City Council relating to the City Budget.

July 20, 1999

Dear City Council Members and City Clerk:

Should we raise taxes this year or not? This is the most difficult of all decisions a councilperson has to make. Raising taxes is not like asking for a one time volunteer contribution. Raising taxes is a mandatory payment for life. That is why, before increasing an already heavy financial burden on the taxpayer, we must consider both the immediate and long-term impact it will have on the city.

The tax rate of the city is a major consideration to relocate, stay or leave the city, for both business and residential property owners. Voting for a tax increase must be done only when all other options have been exhausted. I think we have other options open to us. We can pass a fair and workable budget without raising taxes. There is plenty of fat to trim in this budget. I compared that FY 98-99

and the FY 99-00 budget, and found 3 million dollars of increase in salaries as follows:

1. Mayor's Office	98-99 Budget	\$ 985,400
	99-00 Budget	1,770,800
	Increase of	789,600
2. Controllers Office	98-99 Budget	\$ 764,325
	99-00 Budget	839,178
	Increase of	74,853
3. Communications Department	98-99 Budget	\$4,283,532
	99-00 Budget	4,352,803
	Increase of	69,271
4. Building Inspection	98-99 Budget	\$1,031,389
	99-00 Budget	1,158,722
	Increase of	127,333
5. Highway Department	98-99 Budget	\$1,777,051
	99-00 Budget	2,151,734
	Increase of	374,683

6. Recreation Department		
98-99 Budget	\$1,436,245	
99-00 Budget	1,561,991	
Increase of	125,746	
7. Grounds Maintenance		
98-99 Budget	\$2,756,216	
99-00 Budget	2,869,181	
Increase of	112,965	
8. Parks Environmental		
98-99 Budget	\$ 422,372	
99-00 Budget	474,627	
Increase of	52,255	
9. Parks Superintendent		
98-99 Budget	\$1,161,963	
99-00 Budget	1,273,165	
Increase of	111,202	
10. Planning and Development		
98-99 Budget	\$2,466,482	
99-00 Budget	2,816,945	
Increase of	350,463	
11. Transfer to Civic Center	\$ 808,000	
Stop beating a dead horse		
(Close the doors)		

*Total Increase:* \$2,983,966

Another interesting fact is the police and fire budgets. Police and fire will cost the city \$6,347,666 more in the fiscal year 99-00 than did fiscal year 98-99. While the estimated budget for fiscal year 00-01 call for another 8 million dollar increase, that is over 14 million to pay for an 8.7 million contract. See attached letter from Boyce Spinelli to Councilwoman Nolan. Where is the 6.2 million dollars that fiscal year 99 was supposed to have produced?

Please take the time to compare the FY98-99 budget and FY99-00 budget. Look at where the tax increase will go in view of what is already in the plate. Do they really need more?

Sincerely,

JOSEPH DeLUCA  
Councilman, Ward 6

Received.

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

COUNCILMAN KEVIN JACKSON, Chairman  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**Transmits the following with recommendation the same be severally Approved, as amended:**

An Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 1998-34, approved July 23, 1998, of the Ordinances of the City of Providence, making an appropriation of four hundred thirteen million, five hundred sixty-nine thousand, seven hundred thirty-one dollars (\$413,569,731) for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2000, as amended.

**COUNCILMAN ALLEN** moves passage of the Ordinance, as amended, seconded by **COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG**.

**COUNCILMAN ALLEN** moves to amend the Ordinance to include appropriations of \$413,569,731.00 to \$414,272,731.00. The revenue budget will increase \$703,000.00 in property and excise taxes.

The motion to amend is put to vote and passed, by the following Roll Call Vote:

**Ayes:** Council President Lombardi, Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin, Hassett, Igliazzi, Jackson, Mancini, Councilwomen Romano and Young—11.

**Noes:** Councilwomen DiRuzzo and Nolan—2.

**Absent:** Councilman DeLuca and Councilwoman Williams—2.

The motion to amend is Sustained.

Read and Passed the First Time, as amended, on motion of **COUNCILMAN ALLEN**, seconded by **COUNCILMAN APONTE**, by the following Roll Call Vote:

**Ayes:** Council President Lombardi, Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin, Hassett, Igliazzi, Jackson, Mancini, Councilwomen Romano and Young—11.

**Noes:** Councilwomen DiRuzzo and Nolan—2.

**Absent:** Councilman DeLuca and Councilwoman Williams—2.

The motion for Passage the First Time, as amended, is Sustained.

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An Ordinance providing for the assessment and collection of 1999 taxes in a sum of not less than two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) and not more than two hundred twenty million dollars (\$220,000,000) being based on one hundred percent (100%) of the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year tax collections.

Read and Passed the First Time, as amended, on motion of **COUNCILMAN ALLEN**, seconded by **COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG**, by the following Roll Call Vote:

**Ayes:** Council President Lombardi, Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin, Councilmen Hassett, Igliazzi, Jackson, Mancini, Councilwomen Nolan, Romano and Young—12.

**Noes:** Councilwoman DiRuzzo—1.

**Absent:** Councilman DeLuca and Councilwoman Williams—2.

**The motion for Passage the First Time, as amended, is Sustained.**

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An Ordinance establishing a compensation plan for the City of Providence and repealing Ordinance Chapter 1998-35, approved July 23, 1998, as amended.

**COUNCILMAN ALLEN moves passage of the Ordinance, as amended, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.**

**COUNCILMAN ALLEN moves to amend the Compensation Plan to add a Court Clerk in the Probate Court with the pay grade of 21 and change the Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court to grade 26 from grade 21, by the following Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Council President Lombardi, Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin, Hassett, Igliozzi, Jackson, Mancini, Councilwomen Romano and Young—11.**

**Noes: Councilwomen DiRuzzo and Nolan—2.**

**Absent: Councilman DeLuca and Councilwoman Williams—2.**

**The motion for Passage the First Time, as amended, is Sustained.**

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An Ordinance establishing the classes of positions, the maximum number of employees and the number of employees in certain classes in the City Departments and repealing

Ordinance Chapter 1998-36, approved July 23, 1998, as amended.

**COUNCILMAN ALLEN moves passage of the Ordinance, as amended, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.**

**COUNCILMAN ALLEN moves to remove the position of a Clerk Stonographer III of Probate Court and change the classification of Court Clerk of the Probate Court by the following Roll Call Vote.**

**Ayes: Council President Lombardi, Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin, Hassett, Igliozzi, Jackson, Mancini, Councilwomen Romano and Young—11.**

**Noes: Councilwomen DiRuzzo and Nolan—2.**

**Absent: Councilman DeLuca and Councilwoman Williams—2.**

**The motion to amend is Sustained.**

**Read and Passed the First Time, as amended, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG, by the following Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Council President Lombardi, Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin, Hassett, Igliozzi, Jackson, Mancini, Councilwomen Romano and Young—11.**

**Noes: Councilwomen DiRuzzo and Nolan—2.**

**Absent: Councilman DeLuca and Councilwoman Williams—2.**

**The motion for Passage the First Time, as amended, is Sustained.**

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Resolution Requesting reconsideration of Resolution Number 167, approved March 26, 1999, relating to the execution of agreement between the City of Providence, the Water Supply Board and Fleet National Bank for a one year demand note in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000), as amended.

*Resolved*, That His Honor, the Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the City of Providence, on behalf of the Providence Water Supply Board, and Fleet National Bank for a Five Million Dollar (\$5,000,000.00) term loan for a 364-day period.

The terms and conditions of the agreement and any promisory note delivered in connection therewith shall be consistent with the Board of Contract and Supply award of December 21, 1998 to Fleet National Bank, low bidder, for RFP for Short Term Borrowing up to \$5,000,000 plus interest, in an amount not to exceed 70 basis points above the floating LIBOR Rate (or greater upon the occurrence of an event of default).

*Now, therefore, be it Resolved*, That Resolution No. 167, approved March 26, 1999, relative to an agreement between the City of Providence, on behalf of the Providence Water Supply Board, and Fleet National Bank for a one year Demand Note for Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), is hereby rescinded.

**Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG, by the following Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes:** Council President Lombardi, Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin, Councilwoman DiRuzzo, Councilmen Hassett, Iglizzi, Jackson, Mancini, Councilwomen Nolan, Romano and Young—13.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Councilman DeLuca and Councilwoman Williams—2.

**The motion for Passage is Sustained.**

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## PERSONAL EXPRESSION

**COUNCILMAN JACKSON requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a point of personal expression and states:**

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee who helped put together this budget. It was a difficult process and all the departments cooperated with us by coming in and looking and picking apart their budgets and we have had to make some tough decisions and we know some of those decisions are not popular with everyone. Some of those decisions effecting the School Department but we have to begin to change the process and the way government works. Just adding programs and adding benefits is not the way government should work, that is not true reform. We have to look to that process and we made some difficult decisions and we have to continue to scale back on the way that government operates and again I want to thank my colleagues on the Finance Committee and I want to thank my colleagues who are not on the Finance Committee that came in and made some excellent points and two of them I will point

out. Monday night when we talked about the night time school, Councilwoman DiRuzzo brings up an excellent point. Every time that there is a new program we are not evaluating the old programs and we are never getting rid of anything and we just continue to grow and the taxpayers continue to own them and we can't allow that to happen because we represent all the taxpayers. So that is an excellent point and I agree with her wholeheartedly on that and then last night after the meeting Councilman Hassett suggested the night school. I think all the council is in favor of it but not to be tied to a teachers contract. Something that has no proven track record which is not even addressing why kids drop out of school, why does it need to be attached to a teachers contract. It needs to be a pilot program and as Councilman Hassett suggested through the help collation and then look at it, evaluate it, if it works keep it and then possibly move it into a contract and if it doesn't work lets get ride of it. Again, I thank all my colleagues.

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## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILMAN CLARKIN, it is voted to adjourn at 8:45 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.).

*Michael R. Clement*

City Clerk