

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 135

Approved March 25, 2021

WHEREAS, Gina Marie Raimondo was elected to serve as the General Treasurer to the State of Rhode Island in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Following her tenure as Treasurer, Gina Raimondo was elected as the first female governor of the State of Rhode Island in 2014, a role that she would hold until her confirmation as Secretary of Commerce on March 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her many years as Rhode Island's General Treasurer and Governor, Mrs. Raimondo was never afraid to make bold decisions to address various economic and social issues facing the State of Rhode Island, from tackling the State's pension crisis to slashing unemployment rates and bringing jobs back to Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Governor Raimondo raised the state minimum wage to \$11.50, created a sick-leave entitlement, financed the largest infrastructure program in the state's history, appointed more judges of color than any previous Rhode Island governor, and made community colleges tuition-free for in-state Students seeking an associate's degree; and

WHEREAS, In 2017 Governor Raimondo introduced the revolutionary RI Promise Initiative which provided free college tuition to Rhode Islanders in their first two years at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). This initiative increased college enrollment at CCRI, expanded access to higher education to minority groups and improved Rhode Island's student retention rate, with 80% of RI Promise students continuing their higher education within the state of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Governor Raimondo established the State of Rhode Island as a welcoming and accepting place for people of all national origins, races, religions and lifestyles through her staunch support of DACA children and undocumented immigrants, as well as her consistent commitment to diversity and inclusion programs; and

WHEREAS, When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the State of Rhode Island, Governor Raimondo lead the State's response to an unprecedented event with decisive action, strength, and grace; and

WHEREAS, Governor Raimondo always served the many cities and towns of Rhode Island with attention to, and respect for, the individual needs of each and every community throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Gina Raimondo is an exceptional role model for all young women and girls and her 'Governor for a Day' program empowered many young women in the State of Rhode Island to dream big; and

WHEREAS, On January 7, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden nominated Gina Raimondo to serve in his presidential cabinet as United States Secretary of Commerce and on March 3, 2021 Secretary Raimondo was sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris; and

WHEREAS, Following her years of strong and thoughtful leadership of the State of Rhode Island, Secretary Raimondo could not be more deserving of this exciting opportunity to serve in President Biden's cabinet and the United States will be in good hands under her stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby extends its deepest gratitude to Gina Raimondo for her many years of public service to the State of Rhode Island as both General Treasurer and Governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby congratulates Gina Raimondo on her new appointment as the United States Secretary of Commerce and wishes her the best of luck in her new role.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 18 2021

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 3/25/21