



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 371

EFFECTIVE September 29, 2024

WHEREAS, The Groden Center is a key educational partner for Providence and surrounding school districts, providing specialized support for students with autism, a critical service to the community; and

WHEREAS, The unionized staff at the Groden Center, who serve as behavioral specialists and autism education professionals, have dedicated themselves to the well-being and educational success of students with acute autism, yet continue to receive wages that do not reflect the vital importance of their work; and

WHEREAS, The starting salary for first-year behavioral specialists is approximately \$18 per hour, which totals around \$35,000 annually-an amount far below the cost of living in Providence, resulting in financial hardship for many workers and contributing to high turnover and reliance on temporary staff; and

WHEREAS, Groden Center workers held a three-day strike September 11 to September 13 to call for fair wages that reward their skills, dedication, and the essential nature of their role in our community; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council stands in solidarity with these workers and acknowledges that their reasonable wage demands are necessary to ensure the continued high quality of education and support provided to students; and

WHEREAS, Failing to address these demands will further destabilize the workforce at the Groden Center, negatively affecting students who thrive on consistent, schedule-based support from experienced and committed educators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council expresses its full support for the Groden Center workers in their pursuit of fair wages and better working conditions; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council urges the Groden Center to swiftly negotiate in good faith with its unionized staff, ensuring a fair contract that honors the value of their work and supports the educational needs of students with autism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Chief Executive Officer and the rest of the leadership team at the Groden Center as well as to the striking workers, affirming the Providence City Council's solidarity with their cause.

IN CITY COUNCIL

SEP 19 2024

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk