

To The Honorable The City Council of the City of Providence

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Section 108 of the City Charter of the City of Providence, I am presenting herewith for your consideration a budget for the fiscal year 1954-1955.

Anticipated revenues total \$30,476,837. Proposed expenditures amount to \$30,448,534. In comparison with estimates for the current fiscal year these figures represent an increase of \$768,987 in anticipated revenues, and approximately the same increase, a sum of \$768,782 in proposed expenditures. The net budget surplus on this basis is expected to amount to \$28,303, a figure similar to that estimated for last year.

Analysis of principal revenue items, as anticipated, reveals in the budget here presented, a much tighter balance in income versus outgo than has been obtained in recent years. This is apparent in the Reserve for Extraordinary Expenditures, an item comprising unexpended revenues of the previous year, and carried forward into this budget.

The Reserve for Extraordinary Expenditures is derived from various revenues, which, to a greater or lesser extent, exceeded prior estimates of those revenues, and is derived also from departmental savings and economies to the extent to which these result in expenditures of a lesser order than originally proposed at the commencement of the year.

For the most part, such unexpended revenues at the close of the fiscal year have been available, to at least a limited extent, for essential capital purposes in the following fiscal year. In the proposed budget for fiscal 1954-1955, however, it has been necessary to incorporate \$485,000 in this Reserve item. This is an increase of \$330,000 over the \$155,000 of Reserve in the current budget and represents the largest single increase under the schedule of anticipated revenues. This means, in short, that for the forthcoming year we are forced, to a greater extent than previously necessary, to decrease amounts available for capital purposes in order to maintain a proper balance in our operating budget.

Other principal sources of revenue increases include property taxes, fines and forfeits, and general departmental revenues. Increases in property taxes are anticipated as \$281,063. Of this, less than one-half, \$131,000, will come from current taxes, an amount considerably smaller than in previous years. The balance of the increase, \$150,000, must come from a concerted and aggressive drive against back taxes, principally the personal property tax on automobiles.

Fines and forfeits in the current year will exceed last year's estimates by \$45,000, reflecting, to a large degree, stepped-up traffic enforcement and the "no-fix" ticket. It is anticipated these revenues will remain stable in fiscal 1954-1955, and the increase of \$45,000 for next year <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ predicated on that assumption.

General departmental fees will provide in the aggregate the second largest revenue increase in the amount of \$209,250 anticipated.

The total amount comprises estimated increases of \$80,000 in Chapin Hospital receipts, \$48,000 in public school receipts, \$25,000 in municipal dock receipts, \$15,000 in parking meter receipts, and additional miscellaneous receipts of lesser

amounts.

Decreases anticipated on the revenue side largely follow the trends observed in other years, the principal decrease being \$110,000 in the State grant-in-aid for general City purposes. This grant is based upon the proportion of tax levy in the individual city or town relative to the levy in other communities. The Providence proportion has increased at a consistently lesser rate than that in other communities in the State.

#### FIXED CHARGES

Fixed charges, namely, those payments to which past commitments offer no alternative, total \$12,902,497, including debt service at \$3,511,599, pensions at \$1,430,918, and education at \$7,959,980.

The total of these charges is up over the current year \$479,462, reflecting the increase of \$535,878, to the School Department. This latter increase results from the 1.1 amendment to the Strayer formula recommended by this Council, and approved by the Legislature.

Pensions are down in this budget by \$148,032 as a result of assumption by the School Department of the pension item for school employees, another provision of the Strayer amendment of this calendar year. The decrease is a welcome one and serves to ease to some measure the pressure of fixed items.

Debt service is up \$91,614, a net increase reflecting the funding of borrowings for the Central Library, for sewer and highway purposes, and for construction of the Fox Point Elementary School. Bonds totalling \$4,050,000 for the projects cited were sold during the current year.

#### THE CAPITAL BUDGET

Capital Budget items recommended for financing from current revenues next fiscal year total \$43,500, a decrease of \$23,500 from the budget of the current year.

I had hoped that funds for this purpose, rather than decreased from the present, might be substantially increased. That, however, as I mentioned previously, will not be possible due to the large Reserve for Extraordinary Expenditures item incorporated herein to preserve the operating balance.

The total picture on the capital side is not as difficult as might seem, nevertheless, for surplus revenues of 1952-1953 to the extent of \$457,000 were either expended or placed in special accounts for capital purposes during 1953-1954.

Projects to be financed from the recommended \$43,500 include:

Renovation of Casino in the Park Department	\$ 4,000
Renovation of Museum in the Park Dept.	5,000
Camp-Cypress Playground Improvement	12,000
General Playground Improvements	10,000
Parking Meter Replacement	<u>\$ 12,500</u>
	\$ 43,500

#### FIRE AND POLICE WORK WEEK

Except for the increase in education previously described, the largest increase in proposed expenditures is in the public safety function, up \$240,965.

The bulk of this increase is the cost of providing during three quarters - October 1, 1954 to July 1, 1955 - for a sixty hour week in the Fire Department, and a forty-four hour week in the Police Department,

and during one-quarter - July 1, 1955 to September 30, 1955 - for a fifty-six hour week in the Fire Department and a forty hour week in the Police Department.

I know that this provision is in accordance with the wishes of this Council, and, likewise, that it is deserved by the loyal and efficient members of these departments.

#### GENERAL DEPARTMENTS

Aside from increases in public safety and education, no significant increases in departmental expenditures are recommended in this budget. On the contrary, every effort has been made to hold the line, or, in many cases, to reduce expenditures.

A small increase is proposed for the Finance Department for materials and equipment, amounting to \$12,071. The Public Library Grant has, of necessity, been increased \$61,000 to provide improved service in its expanded central facilities, and the health function has been increased \$95,383, this latter being self-liquidating, as it will be recovered through increased rates. The Water Supply Board, which is also self-supporting, is increased \$7,500.

Reductions from expenditures recommended last year total \$275,630. Principal reductions recommended include the legislative function, decreased by \$29,158, the Welfare decreased by \$6,127, Public Works decreased by \$62,487, Recreation decreased by \$2,135, the decrease in pension costs already described, and reduction of miscellaneous items by \$27,692.

A BALANCED BUDGET

As has been apparent to all, the task of budget preparation, never an easy operation, has this year been more than ordinarily difficult. It must be recognized, and I believe you will agree this budget, as proposed, does recognize, that with a levelling off of basic income sources, there must also be a levelling off of expenditures for the various services and functions of government. This budget will in no way, however, reduce the efficiency and quality of good government to which the citizens of this City have been accustomed under this administration.

CONCLUSION

I present this budget to you gentlemen of this Council, confident that, insofar as we can foresee, it provides the highest standards of performance within our means to achieve.

I depend, as I have always depended, upon the cooperation and the advice of this Council. Such advice and cooperation you have always accorded me in the fullest measure, and it is this harmonious working relationship which is responsible for the present sound fiscal condition of the City of Providence today.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter H. Reynolds  
Mayor of Providence

IN CITY COUNCIL

READ:  
  
CLERK



D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

July 15, 1954

Mr. D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Everett:

In accordance with the provisions of Resolution Number 352, approved July 2, 1954, I have this day appointed the following to serve as members of the Special Committee to authorize leaves of absence for City employees desiring to attend annual conventions of certain Veterans' Organizations:

Councilman William A. Gray  
Councilman Jerry Lorenzo  
Councilman Lee A. Worrell

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Luongo,  
President of the City Council.

VV:eef

IN CITY COUNCIL  
AUG 5 - 1954

READ:  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*D. Everett Whelan*  
CLERK



## TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

DWIGHT T. MYERS

Traffic Engineer

ROGER T. CHANDLER

Assistant Traffic Engineer

147 Fountain Street

Providence 3, R. I.

June 25, 1954

The Honorable City Council  
City Hall  
Providence, R. I.

Gentlemen:

At the request of Council Resolution #313, dated May 20, 1954, the traffic engineer has studied the advisability of installing boulevard STOP signs or YIELD signs at the intersection of Maplehurst Avenue and Huron Street.

To begin with, we should point out that where Maplehurst Avenue and Huron Street meet forms a right angle so that traffic does not cross but merely travels through a curve.

Our accident files show that no accidents have been reported from April 1, 1951 to March 31, 1954. Traffic volumes at this location are very light and we do not feel that there is enough of a problem to warrant curb signs or barrier signs.

Since there is no crossing traffic and since the accident record has been excellent for the past three years, we can see no justification for the installation of boulevard STOP or YIELD signs at this location.

IN CITY COUNCIL

AUG 5 - 1954

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*D. Everett Whelan*  
CLERK

EFC/eg

Very truly yours,

*Roger T. Chandler*  
Roger T. Chandler  
Traffic Engineer