

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 135

Approved April 15, 2022

WHEREAS, Countless City Council resolutions have been passed over the last 20 years urging National Grid's burial of the high voltage transmission lines on the Providence waterfront at India Point Park; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 20 years, 2,100 petition signers, over 78 organizations and elected officials have urged the state to bury the power lines on the Providence waterfront; and

WHEREAS, The burial of the India Point Park power lines, which were built in 1918, would eliminate the possibility of storm damage and the public health risk of exposure to electromagnetic fields for nearby residents; and

WHEREAS, Four independent consultants have found that burial is feasible, and two others have concluded that attaching the cables under the Seekonk River Linear Park bridge is also feasible; and

WHEREAS, Overhead transmission lines detract from the beauty of India Point Park and obstruct views of Narragansett Bay; and

WHEREAS, Now Congressman David N. Cicilline, stated that the city's India Point Park waterfront is one of "the entering crown jewel of the city," and "one of Providence's greatest assets" and "it is imperative that Narragansett Electric bury the unsightly power lines that would otherwise frame, and therefore diminish, the area"; and

WHEREAS, Route 195's interstate water view is a scene by approximately 10 million travelers a year; and

WHEREAS, India Point Park is listed in many travel guides as the top attraction for visitors to the city of Providence and used by hundreds of thousands of people a year from across the city, state, and region, representing one of the most-used and most diverse populations of any city park; and

WHEREAS, The burial of the power lines would benefit the entire city, through increased economic development, tourism, and the beautification of the park; and

WHEREAS, Over half of the more than half the most recent \$34 million estimated cost of burial has been raised and additional burial funds could be raised by a small increase for statewide ratepayers of up to 10 cents a month for the average ratepayer, which is less than one tenth of 1% of monthly RI electrical bill.

WHEREAS, Chattanooga, Louisville, San Antonio, and other mid-size cities have buried shoreline wires and reaped major economic and civic benefits by creating attractive waterfront destinations that draw millions of people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby requests the General Assembly and our Federal Delegation Consider Making an Appropriation of Funds to Contribute to the Burial of India Point Park Power Lines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, members of the Providence Delegation, the Honorable Governor Dan McKee and the United States Congressional Delegation from Rhode Island.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 7 2022
READ AND PASSED


JOHN J. IGLIZZI, PRESIDENT

Tina L. Mastrolanni
ACTING CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date:  4/15/22
