

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 669

Effective ~~Approved~~ October 31, 1999

WHEREAS, For the past twenty years, Thomas E. Deller has worked for municipal government, and

WHEREAS, Thomas E. Deller, after being raised in Pennsylvania, attended the University of Rhode Island, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Community Planning, and

WHEREAS, After both a public and private sector career, which included one and one-half years as a City Planner for the City of East Providence, serving as Town Planner for the City of Coventry from 1980 to 1986, and serving in the private sector as a project engineer for three years, Thomas Deller came to work for the City of Providence. In 1989, Thomas Deller was appointed to a position of Associate Director of the Department of Planning and Development, where he worked for ten years, and was promoted to Deputy Director in 1993, and

WHEREAS, On the 29th day of October, 1999, Thomas Deller will be retiring from the City of Providence to take a top rank position as a Deputy to the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Housing Mortgage Finance Corporation (RIHMFC), and

WHEREAS, There is no truer testament to a person's governmental service in municipal planning, than to look to Thomas Deller's most distinguished career, and his dedication towards the development of Providence's communities. His "sixth sense" for economic development, historic preservation, and true urban renewal paved the way for the renaissance of our city over this past decade. He co-authored the first comprehensive rewrite of our city's Municipal Zoning Ordinance in forty years, was responsible for the successful development of large-scale housing complexes on Federal Hill and the Southside, and overhauling the city's program of returning abandoned property to productive taxable use, and

WHEREAS, Thom Deller (that's spelled Thom), as he soon became known, served the fifteen members of the Providence City Council with an extraordinary talent and ability for encouraging consensus, aiding and informing members at public hearings, neighborhood meetings, and sometimes very lengthy committee meetings - while always providing a predictable consistency in both his preparation and

Council President Lombardi, Councilmen Allen, Ayotte, Be
Councilman Di Rego, Councilman Hassett, Iglizzi, Jachia, Mancini

Councilman Carter and Council President Pro-tempore [unclear] [unclear]

WHEREAS, It became a well known fact that whenever a question arose in the Council Chambers, in our neighborhoods, or in committee, regarding a planning issue, the words most often spoken were "call Thom Deller at Planning", and

WHEREAS, When either a resident, colleague, elected official or staff member would place that call to Thom Deller, it would always be answered. It was also a certainty that you would come away with a greater understanding of your question and his answer. Each time that call was made - you soon became a student of both Thom's engaging personality, his sense of pride, combined with a healthy dose of humor, and each person would inevitably received a mini-course in his first love - community planning, and

WHEREAS, Thom Deller's labors have always reminded us that the work of the men and women who call themselves public servants of the City of Providence, on behalf of our city's residents, visitors, and our city's environment, is important, and we are all responsible for leaving a legacy of vision and forward motion, and

WHEREAS, We, as members of the Providence City Council, and the residents of our fine city can all be proud that we have shared in Thom Deller's legacy to this city, recognizing his devotion to providing a dedicated and professional approach to each word that was spoken, each plan that was brought forth, and each neighborhood that needed to be served, and

WHEREAS, This council is privileged to have been a part of Thom Deller's vision for our city, and we join with him in his enthusiasm and future endeavors. This council will miss a true professional, and a true friend. But, the members of the council have been assured that Thom Deller will only be a building away from City Hall, and perhaps now, when those questions arise about aiding citizens in obtaining affordable mortgages, subsidizing rental apartments, housing for the homeless, and helping the elderly stay in their homes - the first words uttered will be "call Thom Deller at RIHMFC", and

WHEREAS, It is also with great certainty that with that phone call to RIHMFC, we will encounter that same engaging personality, and will come away knowing "anything and everything we ever wanted to know about RIHMFC", and how they may serve the citizens of the City of Providence, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Providence City Council and the residents of the City of Providence, on this 21st day of October, 1999, honor and recognize Thomas E. Deller for his legacy to our city and its residents. Our best wishes to Thom, his wife Angela, and their two sons Adam and John.