

# The City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

## CHAPTER 1972-43

No. 331

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE APPROVING THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AND THE FEASIBILITY OF RELOCATION FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Approved September 11, 1972

#### *Be it ordained by the City of Providence:*

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Title I of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to provide financial assistance to Local Public Agencies for undertaking and carrying out Neighborhood Development Programs; and

WHEREAS, it is provided in such Act that contracts for financial aid thereunder shall require that the Urban Renewal Plan for the respective urban renewal area comprising the Neighborhood Development Program be approved by the governing body of the locality in which the area is situated and that such approval include findings by the governing body that: (1) the financial aid to be provided in the contract is necessary to enable the Program to be undertaken in accordance with the Urban Renewal Plan; (2) the Urban Renewal Plan will afford maximum opportunity, consistent with the sound needs of the locality as a whole, for the rehabilitation or redevelopment of the urban renewal area by private enterprise; (3) the Urban Renewal Plan conforms to a general plan for the development of the locality as a whole; and (4) the Urban Renewal Plan gives due consideration to the provisions of adequate park and recreational areas and facilities, as may be desirable for neighborhood improvement, with special consideration for the health, safety, and welfare of children residing in the general vicinity of the sites covered by the Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Providence Redevelopment Agency (hereinafter called the "Local Public Agency") undertake and carry out the Neighborhood Development Program (herein called the "Program") identified as the Neighborhood Development Program and encompassing the area bounded by Atwells Avenue to the north; Knight and Bridgham Streets to the east; Cranston, Messer and Wood Streets to the south; and the easterly taking lines of the Dennis J. Roberts Expressway and the Proposed Route 6 Connector to the west; in the City of Providence, State of Rhode Island (hereinafter called the "Locality"); and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Agency has applied for financial assistance under such Act and proposed to enter into a contract with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the undertaking of, and for making available financial assistance for, the Program; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Agency has made studies of the location, physical condition of structures, land use, environmental influences, and social, cultural and economic conditions of the urban renewal area or areas comprising the Program and has determined that the areas are deteriorated, blighted areas and that they are detrimental and a menace to the safety, health, and welfare of the inhabitants and users thereof and of the locality at large, because of buildings or improvements,

either used or intended to be used for living, commercial, industrial or other purposes, or any combination of such uses, which by reason of (1) dilapidation, deterioration, age or obsolescence, (2) inadequate provision for ventilation, light, sanitation, open spaces and recreation facilities, (3) high density of population and overcrowding; (4) defective design or unsanitary or unsafe character or conditions of physical construction, (5) defective or inadequate street and lot layout, (6) mixed character, shifting or deterioration of uses to which they are put, or any combination of such factors and characteristics are conducive to the further deterioration and decline of the area and injuriously effect the entire area. The members of this Governing Body have been fully apprised by the Local Public Agency and are aware of these facts and conditions; and

WHEREAS, there has been prepared and referred to the City Council of the Locality (herein called the "Governing Body") for review and approval, Urban Renewal Plan for Urban Renewal Area (1), dated 1972-1973, and consisting of 38 pages, 3 exhibits and 11 maps, supported by the following supplementary material, data, and recommendations not a part of the Urban Renewal Plan: Relocation Activity Report, consisting of 7 pages and 3 exhibits, and General Relocation Plan, consisting of 41 pages; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Renewal Plan has been approved by the Governing Body of the Local Public Agency, as evidenced by the copy of said Body's duly certified resolution approving the Urban Renewal Plan which is attached thereto; and

WHEREAS, a general plan has been prepared and is recognized and used as a guide for the general development of the locality as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the City Plan Commission, which is the duly designated and acting official planning body for the Locality, has submitted to the Governing Body its report and recommendations respecting the Urban Renewal Plan for the Urban Renewal Area comprising the Program and has certified that the Urban Renewal Plan conforms to the general plan for the Locality as a whole, and the Governing Body has duly considered the report, recommendations, and certification of the planning body; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Agency has prepared and submitted a program for the relocation of individuals and families that may be displaced as a result of carrying out the Program in accordance with the Urban Renewal Plan; and

WHEREAS, there have also been presented to the Governing Body information and data respecting the relocation program which has been prepared by the Local Public Agency as a result of studies, surveys, and inspections in the area comprising the Program and the assembling and analysis of the data and information obtained from such studies, surveys and inspections; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Governing Body have general knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the urban renewal area and of the availability of proper housing in the locality for the relocation of individuals and families that may be displaced by the Program and, in the light of such knowledge of local housing conditions, have carefully considered and reviewed such proposals for relocation; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the Governing Body take appropriate official action respecting the relocation program and the Urban Renewal Plan for the Programs, in conformity with the contracts for financial assistance between the Local Public Agency and the United States of America, acting by and through the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of urban renewal activities and undertaking with Federal financial assistance under Title I, including those prohibiting discrimination because of race, color, creed, or national origin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE:

1. That it is hereby found and determined that the urban renewal area comprising the Program are deteriorated, blighted areas and qualify as eligible areas under Title 45, Chapters 31-33 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956, as amended.

2. That the Urban Renewal Plan for the Program, having been duly reviewed and considered, are hereby approved, and the City Clerk be and is hereby directed to file said copy of the Urban Renewal Plan with the minutes of this meeting.

3. That it is hereby found and determined that where clearance is proposed that the objectives of the Urban Renewal Plan cannot be achieved through more extensive rehabilitation of portions of the urban renewal area comprising the Program.

4. That it is hereby found and determined that the Urban Renewal Plan for the Program conforms to the general plan of the Locality.

5. That it is hereby found and determined that the financial aid to be provided pursuant to the contracts for Federal financial assistance pertaining to the Program is necessary to enable the Program to be undertaken in accordance with the Urban Renewal Plan for the area comprising the Program.

6. That it is hereby found and determined that the Urban Renewal Plan for the urban renewal area comprising the Program will afford maximum opportunity, consistent with the sound needs of the Locality as a whole, for the renewal of the area by private enterprise.

7. That it is hereby found and determined that the Urban Renewal Plan for the urban renewal area gives due consideration to the provision of adequate park and recreational areas and facilities, as may be desirable for neighborhood improvement, with special consideration for the health, safety, and welfare of children residing in the general vicinity of the sites covered by the Plan.

8. That it is hereby found and determined that the Program for the proper relocation of individuals and families displaced in carrying out the Urban Renewal Plan in decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings in conformity with acceptable standards is feasible and can be reasonably and timely effected to permit the proper prosecution and completion of the Plan; and that such dwellings or dwelling units available or to be made available to such displaced individuals and families, are at least equal in number to the number of displaced individuals and families, are not generally less desirable in regard to public utilities and public and commercial facilities than the dwellings of the displaced individuals and families in the area comprising the Program, are available at rents or prices within the financial means of the displaced individuals and families, and are reasonably accessible to their places of employment.

9. That, in order to implement and facilitate the effectuation of the Urban Renewal Plan hereby approved, it is found and determined that certain official action must be taken by this Body with reference, among other things, to changes in zoning, the vacating and removal of streets, alleys, and other public ways, the establishment of new street patterns, the location and relocation of sewer and water mains and other public facilities, and other public action, and, accordingly, this Body hereby (a) pledges its cooperation in helping to carry out the Urban Renewal Plan, (b) requests the various officials, departments, boards, and agencies of the Locality having administrative responsibilities in the premises likewise to cooperate to such end and to exercise their respective functions and powers in a manner consistent with the Urban Renewal Plan, and (c) stands ready to consider to take appropriate action upon proposals and measures designed to effectuate the Urban Renewal Plan.

10. That financial assistance under the provisions of Title I of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, is necessary to enable the land in the area comprising the Program to be renewed in accordance with the Urban Renewal Plan for the Program, and accordingly, the proposed Program and the annual increment are approved and the Local Public Agency is authorized to file an application for financial assistance under Title I.

11. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

IN CITY  
COUNCIL  
AUG 3 - 1972  
FIRST READING  
READ AND PASSED  
*Vernmont Vespa*  
CLERK

IN CITY  
COUNCIL  
SEP 7 - 1972  
FINAL READING  
READ AND PASSED

.....  
PRESIDENT  
*Vernmont Vespa*  
CLERK

APPROVED  
SEP 11 1972  
*Joseph A. Corley*  
MAYOR

IN CITY  
COUNCIL

APR 20 1972

FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

*Vincent Vespe*  
CLERK

THE COMMITTEE ON

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Approves Passage of  
The Within Ordinance

*Vincent Vespe*  
July 11, 1972  
Chairman  
Club

*Councilman Scavette  
and Councilman Lynch, by request*

APR 17 11 31 AM '72  
DEPT. OF CITY CLERK  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

FILED

CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

1. He is the duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City Council of the City of Providence (hereinafter called the "Governing Body") and the custodian of the records of the Governing Body, including the Journal of the Proceedings of the City Council, and is duly authorized to execute this certificate.

2. Attached hereto is a true and correct copy of a resolution, including the WHEREAS clauses, adopted at a meeting of the Governing Body held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1972.

3. Said resolution has been duly recorded in the minutes of said meeting and is now in full force and effect.

4. Said meeting was duly convened and held in all respects in accordance with law and the by-laws of the City Council of the City of Providence. To the extent required by law or said by-laws, due and proper notice of said meeting was given. A legal quorum of members of the Governing Body was present throughout said meeting and a legally sufficient number of members of the Governing Body voted in the proper manner for the adoption of said resolution. All other requirements and proceedings under law, said by-laws, or otherwise, incident to the proper adoption of said resolution, including any publication, if required by law, have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed.

5. If the seal appears below, it constitutes the official seal of the City Council of the City of Providence and was duly affixed by the undersigned at the time this certificate was signed. If no seal appears below, the City Council of the City of Providence does not have and is not legally required to have an official seal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1972.

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City Clerk

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

COMMITTEE ON URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL AND PLANNING

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HEARING IN RE: AMENDMENT TO THE \*  
REDEVELOPMENT PLAN CONCERNING PROPOSED SITE \*  
IMPROVEMENTS FOR WEST BROADWAY PROJECT \*  
NO. A2-1. \*

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MAY 2, 1972

Providence City Hall

Providence, Rhode Island

BEFORE:

Councilman Joseph F. Prete, Chairman, presiding  
Councilman Robert F. Lynch, Vice Chairman  
Councilman Edward S. Xavier  
Councilman Thomas W. Pearlman  
Vincent Vespia, City Clerk

Mr. VESPIA. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a public hearing before the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning, and it concerns an ordinance amended of and in addition to Chapter 1971-24 of the ordinance of the City of Providence, entitled An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Official Redevelopment Plan for West Broadway, Urban Renewal Area Number One.

The members of the Committee on the rostrum compose of Councilman Joseph F. Prete, the Chairman at the microphone, to his left is Councilman Edward S. Xavier, and his right Councilman Robert F. Lynch.

This is a public hearing on that matter, and we have a verbatim procedure, if you are to address the Committee, you can use the microphone in the center of the room here, and please remember the young lady is taking verbatim and bear with her, and don't speak too rapidly as I usually do when I get too excited.  
Mr. Prete?

Mr. PRETE. Ladies and gentlemen, every person present will have her or his say. We will first have Mr. Pallozzi and any members of his staff who desire to speak. The same thing holds true for you

people that are present. I only hope that the people that speak were going to give a five-minute limit and not to be repetitious. Thank you, Mr. Vincent Pallozzi.

Mr. PALLOZZI. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen: My name is Vincent Pallozzi, I am the Executive Director of the Providence Redevelopment Agency.

"Before I get involved in the actual physical changes contemplated under the proposed ordinance as submitted by the PRA I would like to make comments concerning the proposed budget set forth in the proposed ordinance.

As you will note the gross program cost is \$5,707,185. the amount originally approved by the City Council was \$4,778,330. for a difference of \$928,855. This increase is represented by a \$625,000 federal-capital grant which increases the budget by \$833,333.23. - when you add to the \$625,000 the local share. In addition there was inadvertently included in the West Broadway Financing Plan the sum of \$198,242 which should have been included in the Model Cities budget for site improvements which is presently underway. This item is being transferred from one project to another.

This is a maximum budget - which may not be spent depending on actual costs. There is no statement being made here tonight that this is the amount actually spent. The amount to be spent if this is approved is the actual costs incurred after the site improvement work goes out to bid, and whatever the amount of the low bid is.

What I would like to do at this time, is very

briefly describe the site improvements we anticipate undertaking.

The work on Broadway is not a new idea or new thought. We have discussed and considered this for the past 2 or 3 years. I have had many discussions with Larry McGarry the Director of Public Works as to the necessity for it. It has been voted on and approved by the Project Area Committee.

The West Broadway Project Area for the most part, has a combined Storm & Sanitary System. If you don't know what a combined system is -- let me explain. A combined system means that all the sewerage from our homes in addition to all the rain water from the streets goes in the one system and it is processed through the sewerage treatment plant in fields Point. What this means, very simply is if you get any kind of a downpour, automatically the sewerage treatment plant becomes unable to handle it and in many instances raw sewage is dumped into the bay.

It is the intention of the Department of Public Works to separate the entire system throughout the City of Providence. I have a letter here from the Department of Public Works signed by Joseph Campo, Deputy Director addressed to me. It says, "In order to meet Federal directive concerning the treatment of sewage and discharge of sewage to a relief-type of system into a surface body of water, this department is implementing a program to design a storm separation project, which will embrace the entire City. Currently within the City your department has under various stages of design and construction, certain areas for the renewal of supporting services, including the resurfacing of streets, rebuilding of sidewalks, etc. This Department is formally requesting that any projects now being designated for funding purposes such

as the West Broadway Project or any future projects include a provision for a storm separation system. Very truly yours,  
Joseph J. Campo, Deputy Director."

Which means, very simply, the City plans to undertake the separation throughout the entire City, and will request the Redevelopment Agency to make the separation within its project areas solely to clear up the problem of sewage being dumped into the bay.

In addition to the separation of the storm and sewer system the concrete base of of Broadway, based on surveys by the Department of Public Works, is crumbling. It is in dire need of replacement. In view of my discussion with the Director, Mr. McGarry, over the past two years, he has urged our Agency to attempt to obtain Federal funds for the reconstruction of Broadway and naturally at this time we have. The major problem seems to be the widening of Broadway which is our secondary reason for being there. We feel since we are there, since there will be major construction in the Broadway area, we should do something with the traffic lanes, the traffic patterns and widening of Broadway. Broadway at the present time is 49 feet wide from curb to curb. If you park a car on either side, that leaves you travel lanes of 34 feet. If you try to put 4 cars in 34 feet, it gives you 8 1/2 feet. If you try to drive a car in 8 1/2 foot lanes, it is dangerous. What we propose to do is to widen Broadway 3 1/2 feet on each side of the street. The present sidewalks in Broadway are 15 1/2 feet wide. We propose to reduce the sidewalks some 3 1/2 feet by relocating the curbing. This will leave the remaining sidewalks at 12 feet. This additional 7 feet will give you a travel right of way exclusive of two parking lanes of some 40 feet or 10 feet per travel lane which meets the

standards required for today's automobile. May I add that no property acquisition will be needed to accomplish this widening.

I received a letter from the traffic engineer of the City of Providence. It reads, "I have been contacted by your office to furnish you with my thinking on the widening of Broadway. Broadway is 49 feet wide from curb to curb in the area in question. With parking permitted on both sides, this leaves a travel width of approximately 34 feet. The traffic volumes on Broadway require at least 4 travel lanes. When you divide 34 feet by 4 lanes you see that the 4 lanes are only 8.5 feet wide. This would be fine if everybody drove a Volkswagon. You can realize how desperately we need a few more feet on each side of Broadway, just by trying to drive on the street two abreast. I cannot think of a wiser or more beneficial way so spend some money. Any planner will confirm my statement that traffic congestion is a cause of neighborhood deterioration, not to mention the additional air pollution. We have no reason to believe that traffic will fall off from Broadway when and if relocated Route 6 is built. Our past experience shows that in this type of situation traffic drops off for a short period of time but then soon reaches previous traffic volumes. Very truly yours, Frank A. Tibaldi". Traffic Engineer.

I think what we should do now is look at the overall plan for Broadway. Eventually it is our hope and expectation to remove from Broadway every commercial establishment. To make Broadway what it was some 50 years ago -- a beautiful, fine, old victorian area. This is what we are hoping for and this is what we would like to see. It is our intention to plant approximately 100 trees. We are not talking about one or two inch diameter trees, we are talking about substantial trees in the vicinity of five inches. We intend to put benches for area residents or



passers-by to sit. We intend to put new lighting within the street, new fire alarm systems, new signal systems. We hopefully will install some pedestrian lights, which means the lighting will be for people on the sidewalk which will decrease the chances of vandalism.

To give you an idea what the traffic pattern will be, we mentioned Broadway, I am talking within that area from Route 95 to the Dennis J. Roberts Expressway. The problem very simply is based on the new Federal Program; which compels us to work on a year-to-year basis. While we are working on a year-to-year basis, it is our intention to implement the plan which was approved by the area residents many years ago, approximately 1968 and 1969. You have got to envision what we are attempting to do throughout the entire area.

As you can see from the map, we are talking about the eventual reconstruction and widening of Broadway from the Olneyville Expressway to Route 95. The map shows the proposed Route 6 Connector running from the Olneyville Expressway to Route 95, it indicates the Knight Street widening from Atwells Avenue to Westminster Street which is within the West Broadway project area. You will see the Dean Street widening which will carry from the Route 6 Connector all the way across Westminster Street. This hopefully is our ultimate aim and our ultimate goal.

You can't look at a small piece of an overall program you have to look at the entire program and determine whether this is what you want and whether this is necessary for the area as a whole.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you very much.

Mr. PRETE. Thank you, Mr. Pallozzi. Anyone

else that would like to speak? Mr. Frank Tibaldi, Traffic Engineer.

Mr. TIBALDI. Members of the Committee, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I won't repeat what I said in my letter to Mr. Pallozzi concerning the widening of Broadway, but what I have here is some actual calculations and some actual traffic counts of these traffic situations on Broadway.

Right now approximately 1200 vehicles travel Broadway during the peak hour inbound towards the city, that is in just one direction. The present width of Broadway allows for only 844 vehicles per hour to move in the same direction. So without going through all the complicated calculations we now have 1200 vehicles trying to move where only 844 vehicles can. By increasing Broadway, the proposed 3 1/2 feet on each side, it will just give us the capacity of 1200 cars per hour. That's actually all we are doing is just trying to accommodate the present traffic on Broadway. We are not opening it up to expansion or we are not trying to open it up to put more traffic. All we are doing is to allow the present vehicles that are now using Broadway to travel a little more efficiently.

That's all I have to say.

Mr. PRETE. Thank you very much, Mr. Tibaldi. Is there any other person who is a proponent? No one else would care to speak? Any person or persons who are opposed would you kindly come forward, state your name and address?

My name is Linda Passarelli, I live on 91 Ridge Street, Providence.

Miss PASSARELLI. I just walked in, one thing that I have to say is first of all is the fact that this whole idea of urban renewal, I am really very discouraged about what has been happening in the area. I am sorry, I realize a lot of people are working very hard. I live in the area and I have watched this area go down to absolutely nothing in the past few years, since it has been told to us that an urban renewal program was going into effect, and all I have seen is total destruction. I haven't seen anything good happen yet, and they come out and you tell us the first thing you want to do any kind of progress -- the first thing that is going to be done is widening of Broadway.

I feel bad about the traffic and everything. I use Broadway quite often, I can sympathize with you.

What I can't understand is why does a street come before the people. I am living on Ridge Street, and very shortly they are knocking down an entire block of houses across the street from me. When this happens I am going to be living across the street from rats and to the lot covered with trash and you are talking to me about environment and air pollution, and all this. What about the air that I have to breath and live in? What about the land that I have to live across the street from?

I would like to think that the first thing that should be considered is the people, and not a street. Widen Broadway fine, but can't you do that later when you start showing us encouraging use about your urban renewal. I think it is a shame that people are so discouraged, it seems like you are throwing people out of the area, getting them to move out. I am practically sick, it is disgusting, I am ashamed to have people come over my house. There is all this garbage.

The city has enough to take care of without creating more garbage to clean. They can just about keep up now. I am sorry they are the only people to complain too right now. I am really very discouraged

and I don't think it is, I think the whole urban renewal project is being twisted and turned around. I don't think it is anybody's fault. The people have to stop and realize. My father and my mother don't want me to have to live in this. This is trash, and it is not healthy for one thing, and the people's needs should come first.

I don't know. They have a project area committee, and everything, and I have heard all sorts of excuses why we were not notified about this and that, and why we never have any kind of meetings for the area, and I would like to quote, and please bring out the idea that they tell us what is being done for us. Whoever is in charge of my area, I don't know. I don't even care. I have never been asked. Am I satisfied with what is happening? Do I like what is happening? Do I have anything to offer as far as the plans are concerned? I think we should all stop. If this is what urban renewal is, I wish the government would just close down and forget about everything. It is kind of sad, disgusting and ridiculous. I know a lot of people planned to come here tonight, but couldn't possibly make it tonight.

You have to realize that the people in my area are so discouraged about what had happened to the area. I don't know if there is an ulterior motive, it is a sad way to feel, but I think it is a sad way to feel, get the people out of the area. It is turning into a slum area, and get them out as fast as we can. I am certain that you don't feel that way either. What is happening is just this, and I really certainly hope that a street is put secondly.

I know Broadway should be widened. We are very fortunate to have such an historical place, but I really think that we are a little bit more important right now than a street. That can wait. Thank you.

Mr. PRETE. Is there any other person?  
Would you come forward, please?

My name is John Perrotta, I live at 118 Ridge Street in the West Broadway area.

Mr. PERROTTA. I have lived there all my life. I think I know West Broadway pretty well. I think I know Broadway, the street pretty well, and I certainly can understand your goals in tearing up the road to improve the sanitation system, and the drainage. I can understand that, although I would ask whether

there are any alternate ways of financing this whether the redevelopment agency has explored other financing methods that the federal government has? I would like that question answered first.

Secondly, I can't see any reason for widening Broadway. There is no logic to it at all in my mind. First of all I have driven up Broadway thousands of times, at all hours and it doesn't seem congested to me first of all. Secondly, I would ask who is it congested for? Is it congested for the people who live on Federal Hill and West Broadway, or congested for those people passing through? I think that it is the crucial question. If it is not congested for the people on West Broadway, there is really no reason for widening it.

Secondly or thirdly, if it has to be widened why can't you simply ban on parking on one side of the street; that would widen it by 8 feet or so I think those are the figures you used, if you did that then the traffic could flow more easily. You say in the future you would like to see Broadway as a non-commercial area, just old victorian houses. If that were true then you wouldn't need parking on the street. There

are driveways there, people can park their cars in the yards so your plans don't really jive in that respect.

Thirdly or fourthly, the figures that the traffic engineer used I think with that, I am trying to remember them exactly, that currently Broadway can accomodate roughly 800 cars an hour, whatever it is and it needs to be 1200. If you make the road wide enough to accomodate 1200 cars, that is how many are going to use it. That doesn't follow because if you widen it to accomodate 1200 cars, it is going to accomodate 1600 cars, because more people are going to try to use it. It is the same thing now, if it is 400 cars over now, widening it to take care of those 400 cars isn't going to mean that it is going to stop at that point. More cars are going to use it, and the congestion is going to become worse. I can't see any reason for widening Broadway, I think it is going to destroy the neighborhood more.

It has been weakened, not strenghtened by your urban renewal in the last 5 years. Maybe 20 years ago, not that long ago there were tomatoes, peppers, string beans growing in the yard next to mine, now there is rubbish. I am looking around trying to find

my city councilmen. I con't know if they are here.

Where? Mr. Lorenzo right in front of me. Sorry.

I would like to hear what they have to say about this.

I am glad one of them is here, but I think we have two and on a crucial question like this, they should both be here. I would like to broaden this a bit. Broadway is not the only issue obviously, it is the whole neighborhood, and it has gone down. It is being destroyed as a community. Is my five minutes up?

Mr. PRETE. I am going to be rude and interrupt. The only thing that is before us tonight, Mr. Perrotta is the widening of the street, resurfacing, concrete foundations and the separation of storm or drain sewers, this is what the public hearing is.

Mr. PERROTTA. I am coming to that, the final point is you can't look at Broadway in those terms, obviously it has a lot to do with the neighborhood if you want to discuss widening Broadway, and putting in sewers you can't confine the discussion for that. That is what the people have been trying to say, and I have been sitting around too long myself, letting other people carry the ball, and when you asked the people to speak tonight and I saw no one was really prepared to

speaking, although I didn't have as much time as I would like to prepare, I had to say something. That's what I have to say, thank you.

Mr. PRETE. I would like to ask you a question, you are against the widening of the street, am I right?

Mr. PERROTTA. Yes, definitely.

Mr. PRETE. For an alternative, if they ban one side of the street parking that would be acceptable to you?

Mr. PERROTTA. I would think so. If that would solve the problems that the traffic engineer sees, I don't really see it as a problem of congestion, it is a vicious circle, the more you widen the road, the more congestion there is going to be. We will make it wide enough for 1200 cars, and only 1200 cars will use it, that is not the way it is working now, and it is not the way it will work in the future. Thank you.

Mr. PRETE. Thank you.

My name is Howard King, 44 Hudson Street, Providence.

Mr. KING. Over this issue on Broadway we have been called as desperate band of people. I say

yes, we are desperate. We are desperately trying to save our neighborhood from urban renewal. Broadway is unnecessary. The work even under the street is unnecessary, seeing that the majority of the storm and sanitary sewers have already been separated, and the work entails, if I am not mistaken, only about two blocks to separate. Yes, we are desperate. We have had urban renewal for 2 years in our area, and there has not been a thing accomplished, and they are trying to throw Broadway in our lap saying, "Here, this is what has been accomplished in 2 years."

All I have to say is when the death certificate on West Broadway neighborhood is issued under because I don't want to see urban renewal, thank you.

Mr. PRETE. Is there anyone else that would like to talk?

My name is Ammerika Della Grotta, and I live at 100 Ridge Street.

Mr. DELLA GROTTA. I don't want to see Broadway widened. Why didn't they do that 6 years ago when they repaved Broadway? Why didn't they do it then? No, they wait until now. Let's make a race track of Broadway, that would be better yet. That's what it is.

It's a race track, and there is more people killed, that is what we are looking for. Let's go out and kill people, that is good. Let it stay the way it is, thank you.

Mr. PRETE. Thank you Mr. Della Grotta.

Would anyone else like to speak, please step forward.

My name is Theresa Santopietro, I am speaking from my mother's house. I have a mother who is blind, and she has a six decker house on Ridge Street, and there has been 2 or 3 fires in the past month because there is all trash in their back yard, and we have been having trouble renting the place. We have had it unrented for 2 and 3 years, and the people don't want to stay there because it needs repairing, and we can't do anything about this.

I have called my Councilman, are you Mr. Lorenzo? I spoke to him about it, and I went to the rehabilitation on Broadway, and all they tell me is we don't know when it is going to come down. What are we to do with this property? My mother is blind, we have to support her. Nobody wants to buy the house. What are we going to do?

I think this should be taken care of first,

before Broadway. Don't you agree with me? I really don't know what to do with this house. We can't sell it. We can't rent it. The rents are very low. It needs repairs, I have spent \$1200 just painting it, but now it needs gutters, it needs a roof.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I agree with you. Why don't you after the meeting Mrs. Santopietro, speak with Vinny Pallozzi, and I know that he will be glad to explain to you.

Mrs. SANTOPIETRO. 135 Ridge Street, and we have had 2 fires in the past month because there is all trash in the back there. I don't know who is putting the fires, I have a mother, she is blind. She has nobody. We have to keep running there, and I think this should be taken care of before Broadway. And we have a lot of old people in that house.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. May I ask you another question, Mrs. Santopietro? Are you against the widening of the street?

Mrs. SANTOPIETRO. I am not against it, but I think that this area should be, either it is going to come down or it is not because we are at a standstill. We don't know whether to fix it or not. We can't get

mortgages because they have given the grants just to the people that are going to stay there. So what are we going to do? It just doesn't make any sense, and I did call everybody. I went to every place on Broadway, and that is all I get is just, you know, just stay there until we, well how long is this going to last. They told me maybe 4 or 5 years or maybe none at all, so I don't know what to do. It should be corrected really, I think so. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Santopietro.

My name is Leo Miller from 82 Wendell Street.

Mr. MILLER. This program on urban renewal is called West Broadway, but the way it looks here it should be called straight Broadway because none of this money seems to be going into the building up of the neighborhood as far as the roads being built up, this is something that the city should do, and the money shouldn't be taken from urban renewal. If you need work done you have to call City Hall and beg to get it done. You have to get the Journal down and have your picture taken which I have done, because my picture has been in the paper.

Broadway is wide enough, and I am opposed to

it. If there is any congestion, it is on Westminster Street, you can't even get through there on a business call, let alone on a car. This is no laughing matter, it is true. I think the men should go into a neighborhood and fix it up instead of making a race track out of a street that is already fixed up. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Anyone else care to speak? Mrs. Gilman?

My name is Louise Dumont, I live at 150 Superior Street.

Mrs. DUMONT. As a resident of the West Broadway urban renewal project I am opposed to the widening and work on Broadway, because it doesn't solve the immediate problems or living conditions of the residents living in the area. The redevelopment agency is aware that this money will not be lost if it isn't used on Broadway. How does one break through the stone wall that the redevelopment agency has built around themselves? Is there no way to break through? One need not be an expert to see what can be accomplished in the inner neighborhoods with this windfall of \$425,000. Site improvements, spell it any way you wish but do it and do it now. Where? On the streets that

are not in either year 2 or 3. For proposed site and street improvements, let's go back on that. On the streets that are not in either year 2 or 3 already proposed for street and site improvements.

What can be done? We were asked this many times. Where would you spend the money? New sidewalks, planting of grass and trees, landscape small lots to provide open space, new resurfacing of streets and curbs on streets where needed. Have we spent the money yet? Was there money spent yet? If not, provide a recreational area to meet the needs of a neighborhood. Install street lighting where needed, provide off-street parking where needed. How can this work get done so something positive and visible can be seen in our neighborhood? Let's stop talking about it and do it.

Bring in enough contractors to get the work done, not leave it to 1 or 2 contractors to do all this work. The same applies to demolition. Bring in more wreckers to get the unsafe vacant houses down faster so new housing can get started. Is there still any more money? If so, separate the storm and sewer lines on the two little blocks on Broadway. As rehabilitation will be the goal for the area in the coming months,

these new site improvements will add not only beauty, but will once again return the dignity of the neighborhood and residents who will remain in the West Broadway project area. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Dumont. Anyone else?

My name is William Peotrowski, I live on 82 Willow Street.

Mr. PEOTROWSKI. The first thing I would like to say, I think inadvertently you have been misled on some parts regarding the work that is going to be done on Broadway. Mr. Pallozzi stated for the most part there are combined storm and sanitary systems throughout the West Broadway project. I have checked this out, it is a combined system. He has failed to tell you at this time that for that section of Broadway from the Dennis J. Roberts Expressway to Almy Street already has a separation of storm and sanitary sewers which was done back in the 1890's.

What they want to do, if you look at your map closely, they want to finish that stretch from Almy Street to Knight Street. Take those lines and tie them into Knight Street line which is about a block down from

the intersection of Broadway and Knight Street which again is the 1893 line. The point that they are going to change these sewers at the crest in the road which is about Marshall Street, if you stand there at Marshall Street and look towards the city you can see that the line or road slopes towards the city, and if you stand and look towards Olneyville you can see that the line or road slopes towards the other way. I think what you are looking for is on that first map, gentlemen. It is on Exhibit B. If you look closely at that, gentlemen, you will see from Marshall Street down there are 2 lines, one right in the center of the road which is a dash-line which when you check the map shows that that is already existing sanitary line in the road.

Next to it is a dotted line which is an existing storm sewer. If you follow that all the way down towards Olneyville or towards the left of the map you will see that the lines are separated on that portion of Broadway. The only portion that isn't separated is from Marshall Street which I just mentioned to you is the crest in the road to Knight Street and Marshall Street. All they are going to do is, they are just going to put in a small stretch to connect into the

existing line running into Olneyville. As you gentlemen know or can find out that the storm and sanitary lines follow the paths of gravity, there is no pumping of these lines, they just follow gravity. From Marshall Street going to Courtland Street leading towards the right part of the map, there is no separation. The reason there is no separation is that there is no catch basin, and there is nothing in the map for it. The only place they are going to put in a catch basin is going to be at the intersection of Courtland and Broadway and extend the line down Courtland Street.

The next place on Broadway that you see a separation or indication of a new line is at Andrews Street, and they are going to tear up that part and separate it and run that over to Knight Street and down Knight Street. Gentlemen, I ask you does this call for the digging up of the whole road so we can widen the street, so we can take care of as Mr. Tibaldi says 1200 cars at peak rush hour travel down this hill which is only as he said a stop gap for the present. We are going to spend this sum of money to do this work on the road which tomorrow or the next day is going to be obsolete. This is a waste of money here. Those lines

have already been separated.

All this we have been hearing about a separation of the storm and sanitary lines, and the digging up of Broadway because of this separation is a lot of hokum. It has already been done. All they want to do is have an excuse to dig up the road so that they can widen it. This is all, and their excuse was well we have got to separate the lines. The lines are already there. They don't have to be separated.

Mr. Pallozzi also mentioned in a letter that he had, I forget who the letter was written by that the congestion in the area causes air pollution, and you have got to attack the air pollution. You are not going to attack the air pollution from these automobiles by widening that road, you have got to go against these manufacturers. All you are doing is inviting more cars to come down that road. There is another thing mentioned by Mr. Pallozzi. He said that they will tear up the street, they will put in new traffic signals, fire alarm systems and if there is any money left over they will take care of the lighting. The lighting is one of the big problems in the area.

I say do this, don't replace the signals, the

street lights and fire alarms that are there. They are adequate. There has never been any problem with the Providence Fire Department getting an alarm. Take that money and put it into new street lighting on the street. Just a couple of other things I would like to say. I notice on the map that they have 12 benches which they want to put in. We have checked the budget over, they have allocated \$14,000 for 12 benches. That is a little over \$1,000 a bench. I would like to know what is inside those benches? What about model cities? In the model cities area they wanted to widen the street, but the people over there raised their voice, only they were lucky. They raised them before they got to the stage we are at, and they stopped it when they realized that the people in the area were against it.

Does that mean in order to be heard in the City of Providence you have got to be black? Is that our problem, we are the wrong color? If that is the way it is we will just bring Buddy George and his blacks over here, they will help us out.

There is just one other thing which I would like to get on the record here. It is a copy of a letter which has been sent to you, or Councilman Prete, from

the Environmental Council of Rhode Island.

"This letter concerns a proposal under the above project calling for the widening of a section of Broadway from Kinght Street to the Olneyville Expressway. This widening, we understand, will cause the narrowing of the sidewalks and result in the removal of a large number of mature street trees -- all to be done in the name of improving the neighborhood.

The Environment Council of Rhode Island objects vigorously to the West Broadway street widening, which would destroy so many fine trees. We fail to see how the gain of another traffic lane can justify the wholesale destruction of such a valuable amenity and one that helps to counteract the air pollution generated by the increasing flow of traffic.

We are appealing to you gentlemen of the City Council, the people's representatives and the body with the final authority on this project not to proceed with the widening of West Broadway at the sacrifice of those trees.

Because the trees along Broadway are adjacent to the curb, no amount of widening is possible under this project without taking them. Broadway is already wider than most Providence streets, and the widening of the 1/2-mile stretch proposed under this project will have no appreciable effect on the city's overall traffic problem. We are informed, also, that the proposed Route 6 extension into the city will largely duplicate, at the expressway level, the traffic carrying function of Broadway. Therefore the question arises whether the widening is really a public necessity or whether the funds could not be better spent on some other needed improvement.

Our Council takes no position on other aspects of this project. In fact, we support the sub-surface utility work involved in constructing

separate storm and sanitary sewers, an undertaking designed to reduce the amount of pollution discharged to the Providence River. We realize that such utility work will require the rebuilding of much of the present roadway. Therefore, we hope that the project, with the utility work included, can proceed on the basis of keeping Broadway at its present width and using the funds allocated for the widening and tree removal for other needed neighborhood improvements.

The Environment Council of Rhode Island is a private non-profit confederation of organizations dedicated to the preservation of all aspects of the environment in our state. It currently includes the following groups:

Appalachian Mountain Club, Narragansett Chapter

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Committee for Advancement of Natural Areas  
in Lincoln

Cranston Conservation Commission

Ecology Action for Rhode Island

Foster Preservation Society

Island Ecology, Inc.

North Providence Conservation Commission

Rhode Island Association of Conservation  
Commissioners

Rhode Island Federation of Business &  
Professional Women's Clubs

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Rhode Island Federation of Women's Clubs

Rhode Island League of Women Voters  
Rhode Island Natural Foods Associates  
Rhode Island State Grange  
Rhode Island Waterfowlers Association  
Rhode Islanders for Safe Power  
Save the Bay, Inc.  
Sierra Club, Rhode Island Branch"

I think if the storm and sanitary sewers are separated that paragraph begins, "Our Council takes no position on other aspects," they probably would have used it as a stronger reason for not doing it for the fact.

My name is Eugene McKenna, I live at 538 Broadway in the West Broadway area.

Mr. McKENNA. I have lived most of my life at what is currently the West Broadway urban renewal project. I would like it if I could Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee to go back to some of the comments of Mr. Pallozzi at the very beginning of tonights hearing.

He suggested that I think it was in the letter from Mr. Campo that when improvements are to be done on a street they must at that same time do separation

of storm and sanitary sewers. In other words, if you are going to dig up a street you must, the way I understood it; then do your separation he talked about. He went from that to say that, "The main reason is the separation of sewers. The main reason for the widening of Broadway is the separation of sewers," therefore, I don't think that the quote from Mr. Campo comes into account. He is starting off with that.

If you don't happen to do other surface improvements, if that isn't your main reason you don't need to widen it. Secondly, if the main reason is the separation of the sewers on Broadway, if we find out that Exhibit B as I remember it, and as Mr. Peotrowski so well explained it. If that is the case they have been done since 1839. After all this time, for at least since last June this has never been brought out to us. They keep talking about the separation, in your letter and so on, never mention that it is already done apparently as the map reads. I find that very, very hard to understand.

I am also surprised that here it is nearly the end of year 2 and a hearing is called about this topic when it was brought up at least as early as last June to

to the Mayor, to Mr. Pallozzi, to Mr. D'Antuono, possibly as early as last June. I would suggest that it be cancelled from the proposal. I am against the widening of Broadway as you can presume, but I want to state it very clearly.

In reference to Mr. Tibaldi's statement, the problem of traffic. I drive down Broadway at least as often as Mr. Tibaldi, I appreciate the statistics. I suggest he might want to do a comparative study of Westminster Street. If he doesn't find a greater number of cars, he will find a greater congestion of traffic. It seems to me a study will say if Westminster is more congested and Broadway gets less congested through the proposed widening, much of your traffic will go over to Broadway. I don't think you are solving the problem at all. If you are interested in the rush hour peak of moving these 1200 cars an hour, that you could: (1) Synchronize the lights on Broadway as a possible solution or talk about that.

(2) I think someone else brought up no parking on one or two sides during the rush hour as is done in other streets in the city, and seems to be a possible solution. I would like to have that looked into instead of the

widening of Broadway. Thirdly, I think that the whole case in talking about widening Broadway and doing all this work when Broadway was resurfaced not too long ago. Someone mentioned 6 years, I think it has been less than that, in the vicinity of 4 years maybe even 3 and a half, but that is a point that can be easily looked up. On the surface it does not need to be done over, there are no major or pot holes that I know of, my front end is still in line.

I think the whole instance of this work on Broadway is a classic example of "commune - erism" of telling us, creating needs for us. Telling us you need this, that and the other thing. I think it is a very wasteful kind of policy we do not need to the tune of \$425,000,000 to a half a million. We need this, and you keep telling the people you need this. You are fabricating, making up needs I think. I would like to express that publicly; that is why I gave up other important things to come here for. That present, the summary of my remarks and I thank you for your time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much Mr. McKenna. Is there anyone else?

Ed Bursson, 39 Hamden Street.

Mr. BURSSON. I am opposed to widening Broadway. I live on a street that is strictly nothing but a slum as far as I am concerned. We are on a second fiscal year, and absolutely nothing has been done in my neighborhood as yet about improving the streets, improving the neighborhood or anything. I can't see allocating so much money for the widening of a street as far as I am concerned is in perfectly good condition in comparison to my slum area, thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mr. Bursson.

My name is Doyle, Joseph Doyle, 107 Messer Street.

Mr. DOYLE. I don't know too much about the particulars on this Broadway deal, the widening of Broadway, but what I am concerned with is the children in the area. To widen Broadway the way I see it will be from people coming in and out of the city to go to work, people living outside the City of Providence.

The playground, Ellery Street playground and other playgrounds in the immediate area. My son uses it. These playgrounds, if you were to walk through them they are full of beer cans, broken glass, you name it it is there. I would like to see tax money used

to clean up these places so our kids have a decent place to play, thank you.

My name is Basil DePinto, I live at 538 Broadway.

Rev. DePINTO. I only recently moved to Providence. I recently lived in Warwick. I am very much opposed to the widening of Broadway for many of the reasons that have been introduced here this evening. There is a question I would like to have clarified, and I don't understand the divergence in testimony here tonight. Mr. Pallozzi has informed us this work is needed in order to separate the storm and sanitary sewers, and according to the map that we all have here in the chamber Mr. Peotrowski explained that this work has already been done and for my information and perhaps for the information of others I wonder if that point could be clarified?

Mr. CHAIRMAN. It is not permissible, I am not a Bishop, but I will give you special dispensation.

Rev. DePINTO. I don't want to claim clerical privileges. There has been a divergence in testimony tonight Mr. Pallozzi. The work has to be done in order to separate sanitary and storm sewers. According to the map we have here the sewers are already separated, can

you explain, are they or are they not? John D'Antuono do you know?

Mr. D'ANTUONO. The intent of the separation is to complete the separation on Broadway. In addition to this separation the base on Broadway that is what is under the asphalt and is falling apart. The asphalt currently on Broadway will not last much longer. In addition to the separation that is another prime reason for being there.

Rev. DePINTO. I would like to entertain the testimony that I am opposed to the widening of Broadway.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Is there any other person who would like to speak.

My name is Michael Solitro, I live at 253 Knight Street, Providence.

Mr. SOLITRO. I lived there for 39 years. I am against widening of Broadway because I see the other rest of Broadway, what is going to happen to that? Are they going to widen that later on? Nothing has been said about the other half. Everything is done half. Everything is done just half, nothing is done complete. In any project I have seen so far in that area it is nothing complete.

By me living on Knight Street I was here the last time, I heard Mr. Pallozzi's speech about the 3 inch trees and now they are going to be 6 inch trees. We have got 18 inch trees there right now. I look further down Broadway towards the city and I say to myself how about the people who live on the other side of the street, where are their sewers going to go. I look down and see the civic center, I would like to know where their disposal is going. Is it going to come by my house and the fire station. I think what they are proposing to do is do half of Broadway and later on maybe the Department of Labor or H.U.D. will fund the rest of the money to complete it entirely for the civic center.

As of tomorrow morning my house is uninsured because I live now in the red, and so I guess I have to go to the federal people to get my house insured, and this is due to the fact that I cannot repair my home because I was told they don't know when it is going to come down or just paint it up they will say. It doesn't need painting, it needs repairs, my sidewalk needs repair and that was due to the destruction of the City of Providence going back about 10 years ago when Mr. Vespia was on the council, then he knows about that, and it has

never been repaired. The sewer in front of my house has never been repaired, also and that has been undone for about 10 years. If you come and look at my sidewalk you see that the sewer flows in the winter time. The freeze gets under and buckles the whole sidewalk, nothing has ever been done around our neighborhood anyway.

I would like to advise Mr. Pallozzi if you are going to do a job do it all the way, don't do it half. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert Donnelly, I live on 43 Courtland Street.

Mr. DONNELLY. I never had any trouble in the last 18 years going up and down Broadway, and my children don't have any trouble going up and down, and my in-laws don't. Nor do my tenants and they <sup>are</sup> all strongly opposed to this widening of Broadway and many of them didn't show up tonight.

We have a lot of children and even the little paperboys are running around trying to stop this thing. We are all strongly opposed to the widening of Broadway. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mr. Donnelly. Is there anyone else that desires to speak? Will you step forward, please?

My name is Ann Martinous, 107 Messer Street. I think one question I think that might solve a lot of the problems I think there is a little confusion, one question, if that money wasn't used to widen Broadway, if it appropriated for Broadway, can it be used somewhere else? I think many of them feel if it wasn't used for Broadway that you can use it somewhere else, but I think if something is appropriated for a certain thing it has to be followed through. But I think this might clarify a lot of confusion, thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

I am Mrs. White, I live at 79 Wendell Street.  
Mrs. Margaret White.

Mrs. WHITE. I would like to turn the petition in for the people that are against the widening of Broadway.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Would you hand them to the city clerk.

[Mrs. White complied with request.]

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Is there anything you would like

to say?

Mrs. WHITE. No, just that I am against it and I wish they would do something for our neighborhood because we need it, thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mrs. White.

[Petition given to city clerk.]

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Is there anyone else that would to be heard?

My name is Louise DeQuattro, 102 Ridge Street. I am opposed to widening of Broadway as of now. I wish that our streets would be taken care of first because it is, because when you see somebody from urban renewal come and dump their swill on the opposite side of our streets, that is going some. They tell you there is pollution there is everything, well they better do something about it now because all we see is rats.

So if we want to see beautiful Broadway, beautify our streets first and our homes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mrs. DeQuattro, I would like to ask you a question. I heard this several times by previous speakers, who dumps this garbage there?

Mrs. DeQUATTRO. I would like to tell you but I don't want to commit anybody.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. May I suggest to you....

Mrs. DeQUATTRO. I will tell you in private if you want me to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I will be glad to have you, I would like to tell you and the other people, please get their registrations forwarded to the police authority and you can rest assured because we have done it in our neighborhood. I think it is a shame that people do this. Why don't they go dispose of their garbage other than in the back yard, I think it is a disgrace.

Mrs. DeQUATTRO. We were surprised to see them ourselves. They tell us they are going to beautify our streets; they throw garbage and everything because they knock down a house, why should we get their garbage? In fact they threw it on Grove Street when they knocked down the houses on Grove Street. They knocked down 3 houses. If any children put matches on those trucks I don't think you would have any groceries left. You go and there is through Gessler, a swill all over, it is a shame. We are afraid to walk on the street. You might think it is a cat and it is a rat.

Beautify our homes, our streets, then beautify Broadway because people that come, come in our area first

before they come off Broadway, because the beautification is off Broadway not Broadway. I don't think we are opposed of Broadway beautification because I have been living there over 50 years, and I have walked Broadway many a times and I never was afraid as I am today, but I think our streets need attention first. We have old people, they are afraid to walk the streets. You want benches so people could throw the old folks off like they do on Federal Hill. The old folks can't even sit on the benches because the boys go ahead and throw them off.

What are we going to do with benches. Let's beautify our streets first, then go towards Broadway; then we will have a beautiful little city. Walk through Federal Street, anyway. They say we don't want it fixed because we were told a couple of years they are going to be torn down. What are they doing, just sitting down? I went there. They are knocking down everything or we should have you on the committee? Why should I go on the committee, they are not doing anything? I have been there a couple of times. They want to knock everything down. A good house they want to knock down, and leave a house that is dilapidated.

We lose a lot of good neighbors now we have people come, could you find us a tenant you don't know where to move? You go down Gessler, swish the houses are coming down like mad. Those people have no place to go. We have a beautiful school, we have a beautiful church, but what is around it? A lot of garbage, and now they are going to face 4 maybe they are going to knock down Ridge Street to put us a playground. We don't need a playground, so look into this first before you want to beautify Broadway. You can't blame our councilman if he has the people behind him and pressuring him. I think he will go and be behind the people. That's all I have to say. I wish you would look into it. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mrs. DeQuattro.

Mr. Chairman, my name is Antone Santos, I live at 71 Wendell Street, Mr. Chairman, councilman, ladies and gentlemen. After hearing the various comments that I have had the pleasure of listening to this evening, it seems to me that what the development agency is recommending is certainly not worth widening a street like Broadway when in the first place it is one of the largest streets we have in the city.

For any area of the foundation that is crumbling according to some reports I would say that after 3 and a half years, or 4 years of having been repaved, if that foundation was that bad it certainly would have been more noticeable than it is now. To me it doesn't look any different than it did 20 years ago, and I would venture to say it is going to last at least a hundred years if there is any major work to be done. They are ripping up sections of highways all over the country without having to widen the street.

They are talking about the congestion area of traffic, if the truth is known, there are many many ways to alleviate that, number one as Father McKenna said, synchronize the lights, have one side parking on rush hours. My way of thinking is Olneyville itself, that is where the bottleneck is every day of the week. If there is any money that can be spent for helping traffic I would say that down in the Olneyville section square itself is where they should look.

They are talking about West Exchange Street, there were plans years ago to run a ramp from 95 over towards Atwells Avenue or alongside of it. This in itself will alleviate traffic on Broadway, and if you are

going to widen the street you are just going to hasten the traffic down Olneuville Square that much faster. You are not helping out a thing. My feeling is this, that this program came up so suddenly that I have been affiliated with this urban renewal program as far as my property is concerned ever since 1968, and there are so many different suggestions that have come up. All I see is demolition. I am just wondering where is all this money going to? In construction the average is around 75 to 80 percent for labor work.

According to my way of thinking 70 or 80 percent of the money coming into this redevelopment program is all going into salaries. There is nothing we have to show for what has been done in the past 6 years in the city other than demolition. I am definitely opposed to widening the street. Take care of other area needs first. The foundation under Broadway will last long after everyone in this room is gone. So take care of first things first. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mr. Santos.

My name is Roger Baffoni, 22 Ring Street, Providence.

Mr. BAFFONI. Mr. Chairman and other people

in the hall here. I am opposed to the widening of Broadway because I feel something should be done with our secondary streets. For instance, right next to my house, 22 Ridge Street between 22 and 14 is an empty lot. I am sick and tired of cleaning it up. I called Mr. Jerry Lorenzo up. He was more than nice to me, he sent the city truck up there. I cleaned it up. This isn't the first time I have called Jerry, and he has done me the favor and sent the truck up there.

I am sick and tired of cleaning the lot. The sidewalk next to my house is all broken up. We need better lighting. We have got light on the front of the lot, the kids keep breaking the lights. I wonder if something could be done to prevent them from breaking the lights. I think the Chairman said why don't you get the peoples name or address, with the garbage. They pull the fire alarm box and ring in Courtland Street at least 14 times a night, and the firemen turn around, pull up the fire alarm box and hold their hand on the siren for 5 minutes. Nobody around there wants to complain. Right across the street from my house we got Iacono Trucking Company. Underneath their yard, it is a 2,000 gas line tank and the gas was pumping gas into

their thing, you could smell the gas fumes from the tank, you could smell them in my house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am awfully sorry to bother you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. You didn't, thank you Mr. Baffoni.

My name is Miss Creta, 68 Oak Street.

Miss CRETA. Mr. Chairman and Committeemen, I am completely opposed to the West Broadway widening. I have 2 houses 74 and 68. I have a slum house behind me which I have complained for 2 full years. The house is vacant. I went to Broadway several times, City Hall and the minimum houses, they are not boarded and the windows are tall. The kids break the windows, it is a real fire hazard. At the present time we have rats running around all day long on our properties and why widen Broadway when this can be taken care of.

We have to accept the slum people that come in our properties, they live there a month or 2 and then vacate, and ruin your property all on account of that. We cannot get the cooperation to have these houses that are condemned taken away from us. Last year I went to City Hall, Union Street, they told me that would be done within a few weeks, and here it is almost another year

gone by not a thing has yet been done. They are referring me to the urban renewal, urban renewal refers me to Union Street. Union Street refers me to the Board of Health. This is what I have been getting for 2 full years. I am a taxpayer there for 50 years. I am very, very disgusted. I hope something can be done on that 1 1/2 Palm Street house.

The people at the urban renewal Broadway know about it. They have gone there. They know my whole problem and yet nobody has done a thing. Is it possible for them to do something, and please stop the widening renewal of Broadway until these other things are taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you Miss Creta.

My name is Owen McMahon, 152 Oak Street. The street down there. Sidewalks all ripped up. The city property at the foot of the hill, there is a telephone pole down there now. I have called them today and asked them if they would take it out of there, and they said it is too big, we cannot move it. Call the Narragansett Electric. The whole street is gone, the neighborhood is gone. Everybody's afraid to move, they don't want to do nothing but they keep saying the houses are coming

down. Have we got to live like this today and tonight? Have we got to be in fear that the next day they might come down? We want to know what is going on. We are getting tired of waiting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Is there anyone else that wishes to speak? Councilman Lorenzo? Would you yield? Thank you for yielding to the young lady.

Mrs. Marie Hanson, 195 Alvy Street.

Mrs. HANSON. I am against the widening of Broadway. Would you kindly clean up the blight, that is what we are concerned about. Have you seen Gessler Street? They half tear down the houses, and they leave the foundation. Now children play all around those places and they can get hurt. We have got houses that probably got a 6 family house, one family living in, glass just hanging down. I have called many a time to have it boarded up, nothing has never been done. None of you people live on Federal Hill. You don't know the blight we are faced with.

Houses that our parents have struggled to pay for while you people are getting nice and fat. We want things done. It is time that we were heard. Look at how nice and fat Mr. Pallozzi is.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Hanson, you are out of order, you are taking personalities in.

Mrs. HANSON. Yes, we are so disgusted, believe me it is so pathetic.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Two wrongs don't make a right, Mrs. Hanson.

Mrs. HANSON. We have got rats walking around, they are like ponies. You saddle them and you can ride them. Believe you me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Hanson....

Mrs. HANSON. You don't know what it is on Federal Hill.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Would you please keep your remarks to the issues.

Mrs. HANSON. I am talking about the rats.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Hanson now?

Mrs. HANSON. I am sorry, I apologize to Mr. Pallozzi.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. You don't have to apologize.

Mrs. HANSON. That is what you want? I will apologize.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. You have to talk regarding the issues.

Mrs. HANSON. Come on, it is pathetic, believe you me, sir. The fires that go on every night on Gessler Street, it is pathetic.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. What about the widening of Broadway?

Mrs. HANSON. I don't want it. I want the blight taken care of. We cannot afford \$50,000 homes. That is what they are asking for homes. We cannot afford it. I have lived on Federal Hill all my life. I love it. To see it going down the way it is, it is sad, it is pathetic. That's all I have got to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Would anyone else like to speak? Would you come up, please?

My name is Lucia Anderson, I live at 358 Carpenter Street. I am not here to discuss my opinion about the widening of Broadway. I feel this is not my time to discuss it. I am here to tell you people that the tubing place that was next door to my house was vacant since last July. I have called you people, and I have called you people, and I had to myself, after I got a hold of Jerry Lorenzo. I got tired of waiting. I, myself called up the building inspector and within one week that building was boarded. I, myself have seen

teenagers go into this empty building where we have families around this building, and West Broadway kept telling me they have sent building inspectors. I sat the following day in my house and called up.

How come West Broadway did not work faster? I mean I have been after West Broadway since last July, they know this building was empty. They had to wait until every window in the building got broken. I, myself had to get a hold my councilman that had other problems at the time, and yet I had to call up the building inspector, waited outside my house until they came, and three of them happen to come and within two or three days that building was boarded up. Now I want to know how long am I going to wait until they do something to that building? Is it going to be boarded up for another 10 years until West Broadway decides what they are going to do? This is not only next door to me, this is all through the area. What are these taxpayers going to do, wait until their windows are broken?

First they are going to plant the trees on Broadway, and after they plant the trees they are going to put the benches so the kids will be able to sit down and decide what else they are going to do next instead

of turning around and getting after these homes, and getting them to be fixed up, and get rid of these torn down houses. Rats are coming like cats. I am even afraid to go to church on Sundays, because the rats are just as big as a cat. I don't know whether they are going to come at me or after me, and then another thing too, you walk down Courtland Street, the rats are coming, zigzagging all day long. Why, because of these empty buildings. I think you people should turn around and concentrate on the community before you turn around and think of Broadway.

I was born and raised on Federal Hill, and I never seen anything wrong with Broadway. I think Westminster Street has got more traffic. Whenever I go out with somebody I always turn around and tell them, let's go down Broadway because I get home quicker, Westminster Street I don't. Now I heard that Cumberland Farms is moving from Westminster Street. Where am I going to get my milk. These people are they going to walk 10 blocks, now you walk down Courtland Street, there used to be Jack's. Are we going to wait another 10 years before we get a shopping area? Nevermind sitting around, looking and thinking. I think we should have more action,

because we taxpayers are tired of dishing out taxes. That is all you read, shake your little fingers, and use your little head and do a little work, because I am tired of watching you people do nothing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Your 5 minutes are up, Mrs. Anderson.

Mrs. ANDERSON. What about your 5 minutes? How many 5 minutes do you sit doing nothing, think about that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mrs. Anderson. Anyone else, please? Anyone else? Jerry would you want to speak?

Mr. LORENZO. Councilman Prete, Chairman....

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Would you identify yourself, please?

My name is Jerry Lorenzo, I reside at 444 Broadway. Councilman Pearlman, Xavier, Lynch and our distinguished City Clerk, Mr. Vespia. I am not here on opposing Broadway or saying that I am for Broadway. I want to hear what the people in my ward have to say about Broadway and the conditions in the entire area.

Now, it is true, I wouldn't say the conditions are desirable. I would say the conditions stink. I

go along with the young lady from Ridge Street, the teenager. I go along with the young lady that called me up about removing garbage from the yard. I think I was the first one in about 40 years to build a house in the 13th ward, and I built it on Broadway. I shall be the last one to object about the widening of Broadway because I sit back about 10 feet, 8 or 10 feet further back than all the houses on Broadway so that traffic or the widening of Broadway would not effect me, but I am not here to say that it should be widened or not widened because of Jerry Lorenzo.

I have to abide by the wishes of the people as to what they want. I have to listen to the people, as to the conditions that exist in the ward. Mrs. Anderson mentioned rats, big as cats, and as was mentioned many, many times here tonight this is nothing new. After I built my home I have to go through an experience. Vinny Vespia knows about it. My wife wanted an Angora cat. I had to buy an Angora Cat to put out in the yard so it would kill the rats in a new home built on Broadway. Many thousands of dollars were spent on that.

The conditions that exist in the ward are not

due to Mr. Pallozzi and his staff. Mr. Pallozzi and his staff have to go according to the guidelines that have been set down by the federal government, and I think what we should do, we in the 13th ward especially, to get in touch with our Washington Delegation and tell them that the guidelines should be changes. They should be changed, because from the very first meeting of the West Broadway project, up until tonight, I have seen houses being torn down. Houses being boarded. As Mrs. Anderson said the tube company building on top of the street. I could understand her position when she called me, youngsters getting into the building. They were putting lights on. The electricy was still in the building, and when we checked the place we found tubes of glue, not only inside the building, but outside the door which meant the kinds were sniffing glue, and when the police went there they removed the bulbs from all the fixtures.

The following night Mrs. Anderson called me up and told me the boys had bought new bulbs and were back inside the building. This is not because of Mr. Pallozzi, this is not because of a lack of attention by the police. This is because of the generation we are

living in right now, and something has to be done about it. I would like to see when a house is condemned or it's on the map showing that it is being taken; that it should be taken immediately. I know of one house in particular, it was the property of the late Doctor Valentino on Knight Street, and there were, I think 9 families, it's a 9 family home. Only one family is living in the house, and this house is to be taken because of the widening of Knight Street, and after that family moved out we had over 20 fires, and we could never get any action on it. I complained to all the departments and the only way we get action on it is because we <sup>had</sup> strictly a shall left, and they were afraid now that people would be hurt, and that is the reason the house came down.

I can understand the feelings of the people here who own property or are living in homes that they know are to be taken, and it is taking so long, and I sympathize because I wouldn't want to be living under those conditions. Again I say that we should get after our Washington Delegation and Mr. Pallozzi and his staff may differ with me, but the guidelines should be changed. If the money is there, if the federal government appropriated the money, they should say to Mr. Pallozzi you

are allowed to take this house down immediately, because this is what is causing the blight in our ward. And Mr. Pallozzi agrees with me, we have discussed this many times. It is up to Senator Pell, Senator Pastore, it is up to Representative St. Germain and Representative Tiernan to give us action on this West Broadway project.

I am sick and tired of, well I shouldn't say sick and tired of receiving telephone calls. I was tired one night as Mrs. Anderson said, there was a death in the family and the phone kept ringing, and I have to answer it because I am elected as a servant of the people; and I had to answer that phone; and they had a right to complain as to what was going on in the neighborhood. Tonight they have talked about new lights on certain streets. I think if some of the people will look around, especially in the 6th district, the 13th ward, Wood Street, around that section, and Parade Street, you will find that new lights have been installed, and the entire ward is going to be covered with new lights.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I will abide by the wishes of the people as to what they want because I repeat they have elected me as their servant, and I have to serve them, and I served notice to Mr.

Palozzi who is a very dear friend of mine and his staff to see that action is taken by our representatives in Washington so that they can go ahead and take the property that is supposed to be taken. I know of one particular house that is still standing, and they were told three years ago that the house had to be taken. The tenements were notified about it and they have lost all the tenants; and the property is of no value to the person who owns it. This is no fault of yours, Mr. Palozzi, but again I repeat it is the fault of the federal government because they told you how to do it.

So Mr. Chairman I want to thank you very much and the members of the Committee for listening to me tonight. I want to thank the ladies and gentlemen, if there is anything I can do for them starting tonight on the West Broadway project, or any other complaint that they have in the 13th ward, I want them to come to me or call me up but I don't want anybody and I repeat, I don't want anyone from outside of the 13th ward to come into my ward and tell the people what they should have and what they shouldn't have. We don't need Buddy George or anyone else. The people are capable of taking care of themselves. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, members

of the Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. That was the word used, you can always call on Charles Street, my gang and we will be glad to come up and give you a hand. Josephine Passarelli?

My name is Josephine Passarelli, I live on Ridge Street, you know the street down below there where about 7 or 8 houses down there. About two years they took all the houses away from the street. I live up at the hill on the stop, in the meantime they took the houses away and my bedroom facing the Coomb Street side, and it has an opening about this wide, it is touching the wall outside. So we called up and told urban renewal about it. I called down three times, and we told Mr. Cook about it, but nothing has been done. I am waiting for a good rainstorm.

My husband took it two years ago, now he lost his speach. I don't know what you call it, but it is still that way. What do I do about that? Who do I go to? Before it does go?

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I was just informed that that is a State problem; that property was taken over by the State. It has nothing to do with Mr. Pallozzi.

Miss PASSARELLI. The reason I talked to Mr.

D'Antuono was because I couldn't seem to get anywhere with the State. They have tried to help us. We can't get any answers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. You see Mr. Joseph Gossid the head or Right-a-Way or Mr. Izzo who is Deputy.

Miss PASSARELLI. Do I call myself?

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Miss PASSARELLI. This is about a month ago I called up.

Mr. PALLOZZI. See me after the hearing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Pallozzi said to talk to him after the hearing. The Chair wants to thank the people for coming here this evening. We will take this under advisement, and we will have a vote on it next week, because we will be unable to vote on it this evening, because there are many issues we have to take up. Thank you and good night.

[HEARING ADJOURNED.]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the time of the above-mentioned hearing.

*Rance D. Fortin*  
 SHORTHAND REPORTER