

CITY OF PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND



The Credo of the Providence City Council is to be Industrious, to be Watchful and to Promote Peace. The bee, as a symbol of industry, is derived from the early colonial saying "Busy as a Bee"; the goose, as a symbol of watchfulness, is derived from the story of the goose whose cackling saved Rome; and the lamb, as a symbol of peace, is derived from the biblical use of the lamb as a symbol of peace.



IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 06 2025

APPROVED
Jim L. Mastromanni
CLERK

CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 5 City Council Regular Council Meeting, Thursday, February 20, 2025, 6:00 o'clock P.M.

PRESIDING

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

RACHEL M. MILLER

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILOR ANDERBOIS, COUNCILWOMAN ANTHONY, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMEN GRAVES, PETERSON, COUNCILORS PICHARDO, ROIAS, COUNCILWOMAN RYAN, COUNCILOR SANCHEZ, COUNCILMAN TAYLOR, COUNCILWOMAN VARGAS AND COUNCILMAN VARGAS – 14.

ABSENT: COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS – 1.

ALSO PRESENT: TINA L. MASTROIANNI, CITY CLERK, SHERI A. PETRONIO, FIRST DEPUTY CITY CLERK, YULY POLANCO, ASSISTANT CLERK, NAPOLEON ASKIE, CITY SERGEANT AND JEFFREY DANA, CITY SOLICITOR

INVOCATION

The Invocation is given by **COUNCILMAN PEDRO J. ESPINAL**.

"As our world changes around us we have seen some very disturbing things, today, I read about a young eleven year old girl that took her own life as she was being bullied regarding her parent's immigration status. So, I pray today and I also found this prayer which I would like to read which I find to be appropriate and soothing. It's the serenity prayer. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Live one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardships as the pathway to peace, talking, as he did in this sinful world. As it is, not as I would have it, trusting that he will make all things right if I surrender to his will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with him forever and ever in the next. Amen."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COUNCILMAN JOHN GONCALVES Leads the Members of the City Council and the Assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

COUNCILOR PICHARDO Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

"I just wanted to briefly mention to our special guests, the Central High School Volleyball League, that are here that we are going to be honoring today. Just to let everyone know that we are going to go through our business agenda and then we are going to be recognizing our guests. Thank you, Madam President."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Journal of Proceedings No. 4 of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held February 6, 2025.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 3 and Move Approval, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED (WITH VOTE) [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

APPOINTMENTS BY HIS HONOR THE MAYOR

Communication from His Honor the Mayor, dated February 6, 2025, Informing the Honorable Members of the City Council, that pursuant to Sections 302(b) and 1009 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 31 passed in 1987, he is this day re-appointing **Ms. Bianca Rodriguez**, of 70 Sawyer Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02907, as a member of the **Zoning Board of Review** for a term to expire on January 31, 2030, and respectfully submits the same for your approval.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 4, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Refers item 4 to the Committee on Finance.

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| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Committee on Finance |

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

The Following Ordinance was in City Council February 6, 2025, Read and Passed the First Time and is Returned for Passage the Second Time:

COUNCILOR PICHARDO AND COUNCILWOMAN VARGAS

An Ordinance of the City of Providence Approving Improvements to the Providence Water Supply Board Distribution System and Appurtenances thereto, including but not limited to the Cleaning, Relining, Repair and Replacement of Water Mains, Transmission Lines, Service Lines and Valves and Approving the Financing thereof by the issuance of Water Revenue Bonds and Notes therefor in an amount not to exceed \$21,000,000.00.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE THAT:

SECTION 1. A sum not to exceed Twenty-One Million Dollars (\$21,000,000) is appropriated to fund improvements to the Providence Water Supply Board ("Providence Water") distribution system and appurtenances thereto, including but not limited to the cleaning, relining, repair and replacement of water mains, transmission lines, service lines and valves, funding of a debt service reserve fund and costs of issuance. The period of usefulness of the improvements financed is expected to be not less than forty (40) years.

SECTION 2. To provide funding for the program, in accordance with Chapter 46-12.8 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the City Treasurer and the Mayor are hereby authorized to borrow an amount not exceeding Twenty-One Million Dollars (\$21,000,000) from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, and to evidence such loan, such officers are hereby authorized to issue and refund on behalf of the City, in an amount not exceeding Twenty-One Million Dollars (\$21,000,000) water revenue bonds (the "Bonds") of the City, at one time, or from time to time in order to meet the foregoing appropriation.

SECTION 3. The said officers from time to time may issue and refund not exceeding \$21,000,000 interest bearing or discounted water revenue notes (the "Notes") in anticipation of the issue of said Bonds.

SECTION 4. The Bonds and Notes shall be payable solely from revenues of the Providence water supply system. The City may issue bonds, notes, or other obligations on a parity with these Bonds. The manner of sale, amount, denominations, maturities, conversion or registration privileges, interest rates, medium of payment, and other terms, conditions and details of the Bonds or Notes may be fixed by the officers authorized to sign the Bonds or Notes. The net debt of the City is not affected by the issuance of the Bonds or Notes and the Bonds and Notes authorized hereby will be within all debt and other limitations prescribed by the Constitution and the laws of Rhode Island.

SECTION 5. Pending the issuance of the Bonds under Section 2 hereof or pending or in lieu of the issue of Notes under Section 3 hereof, the General Manager of Providence Water may expend funds from the Water Fund of the City for the purposes specified in Section 1 hereof. Any advances made under this section shall be repaid without interest from the proceeds of the Bonds or Notes issued hereunder or from the proceeds of applicable federal or state assistance or from other available funds.

SECTION 6. The City Treasurer, the Mayor and the General Manager of Providence Water are also authorized, empowered and directed, on behalf of the City, to: (i) execute, acknowledge and deliver a Supplemental Indenture (the "Supplemental Indenture") by and between the City and U. S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as successor trustee to U.S. Bank National Association (the "Trustee") amending and supplementing the Trust Indenture dated June 5, 2008 by and between the City and the Trustee (as supplemented, the "Indenture") relating to the Bonds and any and all other loan agreements, documents, including disclosure documents for investors, certificates or instruments necessary to effectuate such borrowing; (ii) amend, modify or supplement the Indenture, the Bonds or Notes and any and all other loan agreements, documents, certificates or instruments at any time and from time to time, in such manner and for such purposes as such officers shall deem necessary, desirable or advisable; (iii) direct the Trustee with regard to investments of trust funds pursuant to the Trust Indenture, and (iv) do and perform all such other acts and things deemed by such officers to be necessary, desirable or advisable with respect to any matters contemplated by this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. The City Treasurer, the Mayor and the General Manager of Providence Water are hereby authorized to deliver the Bonds or Notes to the purchaser and, to the extent that such Bonds or Notes may be issued on a tax-exempt basis, said officers are hereby authorized and instructed to take all actions, on behalf of the City and Providence Water, necessary to ensure that interest on the Bonds or Notes will be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes and to refrain from all actions which would cause interest on the Bonds or Notes to become subject to federal income taxes.

SECTION 8. The Director of Finance, the Mayor and the General Manager of Providence Water are authorized to take all actions necessary to comply with federal tax and securities laws including Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC Rule") and to execute and deliver one or more Disclosure Certificates in connection with the Bonds or Notes in the form as shall be deemed advisable by the Director of Finance, the Mayor and the General Manager of Providence Water in order to comply with the SEC Rule. The City hereby covenants and agrees that it will comply with and carry out all of the provisions of the Disclosure Certificates, as they may be amended from time to time. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance or the Bonds or Notes, failure of the City or Providence Water to comply with a Disclosure Certificate shall not be considered an event of default; however, any Bondholder or Noteholder may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandate or specific performance by court order, to cause the City or Providence Water to comply with its obligations under this Section and under the Disclosure Certificate.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 5 and Pass for the Second Time on a Roll Call Vote, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | READ/PASSED SECOND TIME [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage the Second Time is Sustained.

PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, (By Request):

An Ordinance Relating to Article IV, Chapter 17, Section 17-189(f) of the Code of Ordinances. (Disability Waiver Request) (Melanie Borges).

COUNCILWOMEN VARGAS AND GRAVES, (By Request):

An Ordinance Relating to Article IV, Chapter 17, Section 17-189(f) of the Code of Ordinances. (Disability Waiver Request) (Adelina Mendez).

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER AND COUNCILWOMAN GRAVES, (By Request):

Resolution Authorizing Approval of the following Contract Award by the Board of Contract and Supply, in accordance with Section 21-26(b)(1) of the Code of Ordinances.

FirstWorks \$600,000.00
(Department of Art, Culture and Tourism)

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| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Committee on Finance |

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of items 6 through 8, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Refers items 6 through 8 to the Committee on Finance.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILMAN GONCALVES AND COUNCILWOMAN GRAVES, (By Request):

Resolution Supporting the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns.

WHEREAS, All 39 cities and towns are currently members of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns serves as a convener and advocates to the Governor and General Assembly, supporting the needs of communities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns believes in supporting municipal aid programs, raising local revenues, fully funding legislative and policy proposals, avoiding one-size fits all solutions, maintenance of local control, and greater flexibility for local governments; and

WHEREAS, Stable local and education aid from the state will ensure that cities and towns can maintain municipal operations while investing one-time funds towards necessary capital improvements and economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, Property taxes represent approximately two-thirds of revenue for municipal budgets statewide, and Rhode Island has the eighth-highest property tax burden in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Any reduction in state funding would exacerbate a dependence on property taxes, ultimately leading to service reductions, layoffs and property tax increases; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's municipalities are an important piece of Rhode Island's economic success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council supports the mission of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns as it supports the City of Providence and the diverse needs of all Rhode Island communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and members of the Providence delegation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILMAN ESPINAL AND COUNCILMAN GONCALVES, (By Request):

Resolution Endorsing and Urging Passage by the General Assembly of House Bill 2025 H-5306, An Act Relating to Special Development District Commission - Capital Center Commission.

WHEREAS, House Bill H-5306 would repeal legislation establishing the Capital Center Commission, which is a special development district commission for downtown Providence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby supports and urges passage of House Bill H-5306, and its Senate Companion bill, An Act Relating to Special Development District Commission -- Capital Center Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President and the Providence Delegation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILOR ANDERBOIS, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILORS ROIAS AND SANCHEZ, (By Request):

Resolution Endorsing and Urging Passage by the General Assembly of House Bill 2025 H-5314, An Act Relating to Taxation - The Parking Services Taxation Act.

WHEREAS, House Bill H-5314 This act would grant municipalities the authority to impose a parking services sales tax on parking lots and parking structures that charge for parking services through an ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby supports and urges passage of House Bill H-5314 and its Senate companion bill- An Act Relating to Taxation -- The Parking Services Taxation Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and the Providence Delegation.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of items 9 through 11 and Pass on a Voice Vote, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL AND GONCALVES, (By Request):

Resolution Endorsing and Urging Passage by the General Assembly of House Bill 2025 H-5335, An Act Relating to Education - The Paul W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative.

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| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Special Committee on Health, Opportunity, Prosperity and Education (HOPE) |

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 12, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Refers item 12 the Special Committee on Health, Opportunity, Prosperity and Education.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILOR ANDERBOIS, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMEN GRAVES, PETERSON AND VARGAS, (By Request):

Resolution Endorsing and Urging Passage by the General Assembly of House Bill 2025 H-5389, An Act Relating to Education - The Paul W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative.

WHEREAS, House Bill 5389 - This act would remove the authority of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education to withhold funds from a debtor community through the general treasurer; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5389 would require an increase of contributions to the school or school district to twenty percent (20%) of the legislative increase in any levy by the city or town where the school or school district is located; and

WHEREAS, House Bill would also require the appointment by an auditor by the general assembly to review and report on expenditures performed by the Rhode Island department of education for the school district, which is the subject of any intervention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby supports and urges passage of House Bill H-5389 and its Senate companion bill, An Act Relating to Education -- The Paul W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and the Providence Delegation.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 13 and Pass on a Voice Vote, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

COUNCILOR SANCHEZ Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

"Today, I just wanted to speak on this issue. I am concerned after these conversations and resolutions over education. I just want to bring attention and spotlight to a very concerning article that was published this morning. If no one has seen it, I am referring to Steve Ahlquist reporting some concerns regarding some teachers in our Providence Public School District that received notices of non-renewal. These three teachers that came to Steve identity as non-binary, so there is some real serious concerns of potential targeting and discrimination alongside these teachers. So, I just want to make it very clear, me as a City Councilor, whom I am sure I have a lot of colleagues that share the same stance that here in the City of Providence we welcome and are very inclusive and support and uplift everyone. So, definitely, you know there is going to probably be other conversations around these issues within the next couple of weeks, so I just want to encourage us all to stay on top of it and offer our support and solidarity as much as possible. Thank you, Madam President."

COUNCILOR ANDERBOIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMEN GRAVES, PETERSON, COUNCILORS ROIAS, SANCHEZ AND VARGAS

Resolution Honoring the Life of Former Councilman Donald J. "Danny" Lopes, Sr. and Establishing an Honorary Renaming of Parts of Camp Street to Donald "Danny" Lopes Way.

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| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning |

COUNCILWOMAN GRAVES, COUNCILMAN GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMAN PETERSON, COUNCILOR ROIAS AND COUNCILWOMAN VARGAS, (By Request):

Resolution Requesting an easement to The Narragansett Electric Company from the City of Providence over, under, and across City-owned land at 60 Camden Avenue (Assessor's Lot 215, Map 69).

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| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Committee on Public Works |

COUNCILMAN GONCALVES AND COUNCILWOMAN GRAVES,

(By Request):

Resolution Requesting an abatement of \$62,779.00 of the construction period tax bill assessed to the Tempo Development at 55 George M. Cohen Blvd.

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| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Committee on Finance |

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of items 14 through 16, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Refers item 14 to the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning, Refers item 15 to the Committee on Public Works and Refers item 16 to the Committee on Finance.

**COUNCILMAN GONCALVES, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER,
COUNCILMAN ESPINAL AND COUNCILOR ROIAS**

Resolution Advancing Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in the City of Providence.

WHEREAS, The City of Providence is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and promoting sustainable transportation options, as outlined in the *Climate Justice Plan*; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has set a goal of becoming a neutral city by 2050, with interim targets of reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 11% by 2035 and 20% by 2050, as well as ensuring that 43% of VMTs are powered by electric vehicles (EVs) by 2035 and 85% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has committed to transitioning to renewable energy for 100% of its municipal fleet and school buses by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Electric vehicles (EVs) are a critical component in achieving these goals, with the increased availability of EV charging infrastructure being vital to the adoption and success of EV usage within the City; and

WHEREAS, Electric vehicle shall mean an automotive-type vehicle for on-road use, including but not limited to, a passenger automobile, bus, truck, van, or motorcycle, powered by an electric motor that draws current from a storage battery charged from an external source; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island General Laws, Title 31, Chapter 21, defines a *Street Light Electric Vehicle Charger* as an “electric vehicle charging station,” which includes the installation and operation of charging units in public spaces such as streetlights; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence, through the Departments of Public Property, Public Works, and Sustainability intends to continue to expand and improve the availability of EV charging infrastructure to support the transition to electric vehicles and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has already allocated funding to support these efforts, including \$100,000 in the Master Lease for City-owned vehicle charging infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the City Council of the City of Providence that the following measures shall be implemented to advance EV charging infrastructure within the City of Providence:

Section 1: Municipal EV Fleet Expansion

1. Expansion of Municipal Fleet Charging Infrastructure. City of Providence shall continue to advance the installation and expansion of charging infrastructure for the City's municipal fleet through its Master Lease and Capital Improvement Plan process and other grant funding, prioritizing locations that will facilitate the use of EVs in City operations.
2. Completion of EV Fleet Study. The City will use federal funding pending availability from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant to update the City's Electric Vehicle Fleet Study, ensuring that future infrastructure investments align with cost-effective recommendations.

Section 2: Publicly Accessible Charging Infrastructure

1. Grant for Publicly Accessible Charging. The City will apply for and pursue Publicly Accessible Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants to help fund the expansion of public charging stations.
2. Implementation of the U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant with State Agency Partners Pending Availability of Funding.
Phase I Implementation. a. The City, working with Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources and Department of Transportation, will install publicly accessible charging stations at a variety of parking lots in City parks, ensuring that these locations are well-distributed throughout the City to provide equitable access to EV infrastructure. b. The City will develop a strategy that identifies optimal locations for additional publicly accessible charging stations and creates a roadmap for increasing the City's EV charging capacity.
Phase II Implementation: Based on the findings of Phase I, the City will implement additional EV charging infrastructure at locations identified in the strategy, ensuring that installations align with the City's goals for EV adoption and transportation sustainability.
3. EV Charging Infrastructure in the Public Right of Way. The City, in partnership with Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, will investigate how to manage EV chargers in the public right-of-way, ensuring that installation, operation, and maintenance of charging stations are conducted efficiently, equitably, and in a manner that supports the long-term transition to electric vehicles.

Section 3. Implementation and Reporting

The Departments of Public Property, Public Works, and Sustainability will oversee the implementation of these initiatives and provide yearly updates to the City Council on progress, challenges, and future needs related to EV infrastructure expansion.

COUNCILOR PICHARDO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILOR ANDERBOIS, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILOR ROIAS AND COUNCILMAN VARGAS

Resolution Endorsing and Urging Passage by the General Assembly of House Bill 2025 H-5307, An Act Relating to Taxation - Property Subject to Taxation.

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council recognizes and honors the invaluable contributions and sacrifices made by veterans and their families in service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, Representative Anthony DeSimone (D-District 5, Providence) has introduced House Bill H5307, which, if enacted, would grant the Providence City Council the authority to set and adjust Providence veteran’s tax exemption amounts through ordinance or resolution; and

WHEREAS, Senator Frank Ciccone (D-District 7, Providence, Johnston), is working to introduce companion legislation in the Rhode Island Senate; and

WHEREAS, Under current state law, veterans tax exemption amounts are statutorily fixed, which limits the ability of the City Council to adjust exemption amounts in response to changing economic conditions and the diverse needs of the city’s veteran community; and

WHEREAS, Granting the Providence City Council the ability to set and modify veterans tax exemptions would provide greater flexibility for the city to support its residents who have served in the armed forces, ensuring they receive fair and meaningful tax relief; and

WHEREAS, The passage of this legislation would empower the Providence City Council to enhance the well-being and quality of life for Providence veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council is deeply committed to advocating for policies that benefit our veterans and their families, to whom we all owe an enormous debt of gratitude, by recognizing the sacrifices they have made for all of us and their contributions to our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby expresses its strong support for House Bill H5307 and incoming Rhode Island Senate companion bill, and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass this legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of this resolution, copies be transmitted to Representative Anthony DeSimone, Senator Frank Ciccone, and the members of the Providence Special Commission on Veterans Affairs.

COUNCILOR PICHARDO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILOR ANDERBOIS, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, COUNCILORS ROIAS, SANCHEZ AND COUNCILMAN VARGAS

Resolution Urging Congress to Vote No on the "No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities" Act.

WHEREAS, The “No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities” Act proposes to strip federal funding from states and localities that choose to limit their cooperation with federal immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, This bill would undermine essential support systems, including health, education, transportation, and domestic violence services that benefit all community members, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation would force cities and states into a harmful dilemma: to comply with mass deportation strategies or face significant reductions in critical funding for programs that serve families and children; and

WHEREAS, Many jurisdictions implement sanctuary policies to foster community trust, enhance public safety, and ensure that all residents feel secure in accessing necessary services without fear of deportation; and

WHEREAS, Studies indicate that collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities leads to decreased trust in public institutions, contributing to negative outcomes for children and families, including housing instability and diminished access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS, The bill fails to adequately define what constitutes “benefit” to undocumented immigrants, creating ambiguity that could result in extensive funding cuts impacting vital community programs, including school lunch initiatives, domestic violence shelters, transportation services, and emergency healthcare; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court has previously ruled against coercive funding conditions, affirming that Congress cannot impose unwarranted demands on states in exchange for federal funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we urge Members of Congress to vote NO on the "No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities" Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress must stand firm in defending the well-being of families and children by ensuring that all community members have equitable access to essential services, fostering an environment of trust and safety; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That we call upon Congress to prioritize funding policies that strengthen communities and support the well-being of all residents, irrespective of their immigration status, and that upon passage, a copy of this resolution be sent to the offices of U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Senator Jack Reed, U.S. Representative Seth Magaziner, and U.S. Representative Gabe Amo.

**COUNCILWOMAN RYAN, COUNCILMAN TAYLOR, COUNCILMEN
ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILOR PICHARDO AND COUNCILMAN
VARGAS**

Resolution of the Providence City Council establishing a Twinning Partnership between the City of Providence, Rhode Island, and the Town of Athlone, Ireland.

WHEREAS, The City Council of Providence seeks to establish a sister city/twinning cooperation and friendship agreement with the Municipal District of Athlone, Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Representatives from both cities have expressed a strong interest in fostering a relationship rooted in shared cultural, historical, and economic ties; and

WHEREAS, Delegations from both communities have visited and engaged with each other, demonstrating a mutual willingness to collaborate on programs that will benefit both cities; and

WHEREAS, Long-standing informal ties between the two cities have been fostered through the efforts of Athlone native Patrick Griffin, President of the Providence St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and John Hensen, Chairman of the Athlone St. Patrick's Day Committee, whose work has strengthened cultural and civic connections between Providence and Athlone; and

WHEREAS, This relationship has been further strengthened by visits from Athlone's elected representatives to Providence, including former Mayor Cllr Aengus O'Rourke and current Mayor Cllr Frankie Keena, who have participated in St. Patrick's Day celebrations and worked closely with local leaders-Providence Mayor Brett Smiley and Providence Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan-who have played a leading role in fostering this partnership and advancing the shared heritage and mutual interests of both cities; and

WHEREAS, There is a common interest in developing initiatives that may include, but are not limited to:

- City Council/Municipal District twinning relationship
- Tourism and heritage exchange programs
- Academic and student exchange initiatives
- Business and trade partnerships
- Arts, music, and cultural collaborations
- Sports exchanges, including rugby, rowing, soccer, golf and Gaelic games
- Environmental sustainability and riverfront revitalization projects
- Joint historical preservation and research efforts
- Media, technology, and economic development partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Providence and Athlone share geographic, historical, and cultural connections, including a long tradition of Irish heritage and contributions to the social and economic fabric of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, A sister city/twinning relationship between Providence and Athlone will strengthen cultural understanding, educational opportunities, and economic growth in both communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mayor of Providence is hereby authorized to enter into a sister city/twinning relationship between the City of Providence and the Municipal District of Athlone, Ireland.

COUNCILWOMAN RYAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILOR PICHARDO AND COUNCILMAN VARGAS

Resolution Congratulating Providence Police Major David A. Lapatin on his induction into the Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Major David A. Lapatin of the Providence Police Department has been recognized for his distinguished service and leadership in law enforcement with his induction into the Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Major Lapatin has served in the Providence Police Department for over 41 years, rising through the ranks from Patrolman to Major of the Investigative Division, where he has played a pivotal role in modernizing law enforcement strategies, dismantling the Gang Squad, and establishing specialized intelligence units to combat narcotics trafficking, organized crime, and digital threats; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Major Lapatin has demonstrated unwavering dedication to public safety, earning the respect of his colleagues and the community he serves; and

WHEREAS, In accepting this honor, Major Lapatin has acknowledged the vital role his family and the City of Providence have played in shaping his career and commitment to justice; and

WHEREAS, His induction into the Hall of Fame places his name alongside the most esteemed figures in Rhode Island’s criminal justice history, a fitting tribute to his decades of service and integrity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of Providence hereby congratulates Major David A. Lapatin on this well-deserved honor and extends its gratitude for his contributions to the safety and well-being of our community.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of items 17 through 21 and Pass on a Voice Vote, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

REPORT(S) FROM COMMITTEE(S)

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN D. ANTHONY, Chairwoman**

Transmits the Following with Recommendation the Same be Severally Approved:

COUNCILOR PICHARDO, COUNCILMAN VARGAS AND COUNCILWOMAN GRAVES, (By Request):

Resolution Authorizing Approval of the Agreement by and among the Town of Foster and the Providence Water Supply Board, an enterprise fund of the City of Providence, and the City of Providence, relative to the Tax Agreement for the Town of Foster.

RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council hereby Authorize Approval of the Agreement by and among the Town of Foster and the Providence Water Supply Board, an enterprise fund of the City of Providence, and the City of Providence, relative to the Tax Agreement for the Town of Foster.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 22 and Pass on a Voice Vote, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, (By Request):

Resolution Authorizing Approval of the following Change Order #4 Contract Award by the Board of Contract and Supply, in accordance with Section 21-26(b)(4) of the Code of Ordinances.

Bowman (formerly McMahon Associates) \$382,087.25
(Planning and Development)

RESOLVED, That the Members of the City Council hereby Authorize Approval of the following Change Order #4 Contract Award by the Board of Contract and Supply, in accordance with Section 21-26(b)(4) of the Code of Ordinances.

Bowman (formerly McMahon Associates) \$382,087.25
(Planning and Development)

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 23, Pass on a Voice Vote and Refer Back to the Board of Contract and Supply, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

**COMMITTEE ON URBAN REDEVELOPMENT,
RENEWAL AND PLANNING
COUNCILWOMAN MARY KAY HARRIS, Chairwoman**

**Transmits the Following with Recommendation the Same be Severally
Approved:**

**COUNCILORS ROIAS, SANCHEZ, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER,
COUNCILOR ANDERBOIS, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES,
COUNCILWOMAN PETERSON, COUNCILOR PICHARDO,
COUNCILWOMEN RYAN, VARGAS, COUNCILMAN VARGAS AND
COUNCILWOMAN GRAVES**

Resolution Establishing a Ceremonial Designation along Hawkins Street as "Mr. Lemon Place".

WHEREAS, Eileen M. Rao (fondly known as Mama Lemon) and Joseph A. Rao were Providence natives and longtime proprietors of beloved Providence frozen lemonade stand "Mr. Lemon"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Rao opened the business on June 21st, 1974 with neither of them having any prior knowledge about making frozen lemonade; and

WHEREAS, Together, they toiled endlessly to perfect their product by trial and error to achieve success; and

WHEREAS, After 12 years of running the business together, Mr. Rao passed away in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rao, with unwavering dedication and the help of her three children- Joseph, Janice, and Colleen-worked tirelessly over the next 40 years to make her lemonade store the best; and

WHEREAS, Her customers meant everything to her and she was always ready to greet them with a kind word and a smile; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rao, the beloved matriarch of Mr. Lemon, passed away at the age of 94 on December 28th, 2023; and

WHEREAS, For half a century, Mr. Lemon graced Rhode Island Summers with their fun and interesting flavors and became a true treasure of Providence's North End neighborhood.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence wishes to honor the life, work, and legacy of Joseph and Eileen Rao and all the dedication and love they put into their business by establishing a ceremonial designation along Hawkins Street as "Mr. Lemon Place" honorary designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the Department of Public Works work to manufacture, install, and maintain one or more honorary signs at prominent and appropriate locations, which shall reflect the "Mr. Lemon Place" honorary Designation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the family of Eileen and Joseph Rao.

COUNCILMEN TAYLOR, ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMAN PETERSON, COUNCILORS PICHARDO, ROIAS, COUNCILWOMAN VARGAS, COUNCILMAN VARGAS AND COUNCILWOMAN GRAVES

Resolution Establishing a Ceremonial Designation along Rounds Avenue as "Rita Murphy Way".

WHEREAS, Rita Murphy is a dedicated individual that has served in various levels of the city, state and federal government and over her years of service, established herself as a valuable problem solver for constituents and elected officials alike; and

WHEREAS, Rita began her career in local city government, campaigning for many local Providence City Councilmen such as David Dillon, Thomas Glavin, Nick Easton, Ronnie Allen, as well as members of the Providence State delegation Representative Tom Slater and State Senator Bob Kells; and

WHEREAS, Through these campaigns, Rita and the elected established a community based ideology that she carried with her through the rest of her career; and

WHEREAS, She then joined the staff on the Providence City Council, working her way up from Secretary to Staff Director; and

WHEREAS, With her time working on the City Council, she worked relentlessly to establish positive policy and community based-agendas that moved Providence forward into the vibrant city it is today; and

WHEREAS, After working briefly as RI Governor Sundlun's scheduler, she returned to the City, but this time to serve as the Deputy Chief of staff for then Mayor David Cicilline; and

WHEREAS, In this role, she became one of the mayor's closest advisors and a key leader in the city, helping the mayor and thousands of constituents navigate the inner workings of various City departments; and

WHEREAS, She continued serving Mayor Cicilline when he moved from the mayor's office to congress, serving as his Director of Constituent Affairs and becoming a leader in Rhode Island's congressional branch; and

WHEREAS, Although the role was familiar to Rita, navigating the complexities of the federal government on behalf of constituents was another enormous challenge, but she rose to that challenge and, in particular, she became an expert in complicated matters such as health care and social security benefits; and

WHEREAS, At every level of government that Rita served, she easily became the go-to person to get things done. As a result of her hard work, care and dedication over her years of service, she became a tremendous asset to the people of the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence wishes to honor the life, career and legacy of Rita Murphy by establishing a ceremonial designation along 151 Rounds Avenue as "Rita Murphy Way" honorary designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the Department of Public Works work to manufacture, install, and maintain one or more honorary signs at prominent and appropriate locations, which shall reflect the "Rita Murphy Way" honorary designation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to Rita Murphy and her family members.

**COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER,
COUNCILOR SANCHEZ, COUNCILMAN VARGAS, COUNCILOR
ANDERBOIS, COUNCILWOMEN ANTHONY, GRAVES, HARRIS,
PETERSON, COUNCILORS PICHARDO AND ROIAS**

Resolution of the Providence City Council Renaming Richardson Street and Park in Honor of Cedric Huntley.

WHEREAS, Cedric Paul Huntley, known to many as "Mr. Ced," devoted husband, father, brother, son, and community champion, passed away on July 10, 2024, at the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, Cedric was born on August 12, 1958, in Lafayette, Louisiana, and moved to Providence, Rhode Island, at the age of seven, embracing values of integrity, education, hard work, and community service; and

WHEREAS, Cedric's commitment to mentoring youth began at Roger Williams Day Care Summer Camp in 1976, leading to a lifelong dedication to helping others achieve their dreams, later earning a Master's in Education from Cambridge College; and

WHEREAS, Cedric served the community through roles such as working in Rhode Island Governor Sundlun's Constituent Services, owning a small business, serving as Site Director of the South Providence Recreation Center, and as Director of Student Support Services at The MET School; and

WHEREAS, Cedric's leadership at the Nonviolence Institute as Executive Director from 2020 to 2023 was pivotal, where his association with the nonprofit dated back to its founding in 2001 as a board member, promoting nonviolent practices and nurturing a safer, more unified community; and

WHEREAS, Cedric's tenure at the Nonviolence Institute involved addressing the evolution of violence and social media's impact, creating safe spaces for young people, collaborating with local schools to support the community, and providing youth with tools to lead fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, Cedric served on numerous boards, including College Unbound, the MET School, Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission, Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, LaSalle Academy Board of Trustees, Criminal Justice Policy Board, and the Providence Police Advisory Board, always leading with love, patience, and humility; and

WHEREAS, Cedric received numerous accolades, including the Providence Police Community Appreciation Award (2017), Citizen Citation Award from the Mayor of Providence (2012), Community Volunteer Award for Service Above Self from the Rotary Club of Providence (2012), and various official citations from the State of Rhode Island and the City of Providence, showcasing his commitment to youth and community development; and

WHEREAS, Cedric's work as Director of Student Services and Safety at The Met School from July 2002 to October 2019, and as Site Director at the John Rollins Recreation Center from September 1999 to October 2019, exemplified his dedication to fostering a beloved community; and

WHEREAS, Cedric Huntley was inducted into the Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame in 2022, recognizing his lifelong dedication to promoting peace, justice, and breaking the cycle of violence; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council wishes to honor the remarkable life and contributions of Cedric Huntley, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire future generations; and

WHEREAS, Cedric Huntley is survived by his loving wife, Anika Kimble-Huntley, stepchildren Ryan, Sean, Alexis, Stephon, Dale, and daughter Tyler, step-grandchildren Tyree, Dale, Kean, and Avery, mother, Theresa Jackson and stepfather Eric Jackson, sisters, Phyllis Huntley Evans, Angela Huntley, Regina Huntley, brother, Christopher (JoAnn) Huntley, nephew, Jeffrey (Chevon) Huntley, nieces Ashley (Kyle Smith) Huntley, Denille (Michelle) Huntley-Gray, Lindsey Evans (fiancé Keeara), and many other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Cedric Huntley, honoring his significant impact on the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby honors the life and legacy of Cedric Huntley, a relentless advocate for peace and nonviolence, a cherished community leader, and a transformative figure in the City of Providence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council officially renames Richardson Street to Cedric Huntley Way and renames Richardson Park to Cedric Huntley Park, ensuring his name and legacy continue to inspire and remind the community of his unwavering dedication and impactful service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the family of Cedric Huntley, the Nonviolence Institute, The Met School, Roger Williams Middle School, the Providence Postmaster, the Providence Superintendent of Parks, the members of the Providence Board of Park Commissioners, the office of the Providence Director of Public Works, and the office of Providence Mayor Brett Smiley.

COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILORS SANCHEZ, ANDERBOIS, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMEN GRAVES, PETERSON, COUNCILORS ROIAS, PICHARDO AND COUNCILMAN VARGAS

Resolution Honoring the Legacy of Dell G. Padgett and calling for the Honorary renaming of Dudley Street to "Padgett Way."

WHEREAS, Dell G. Padgett, born on October 1, 1936, in North Carolina, moved to Providence in 1950 and became a cherished member of the community, contributing greatly to the cultural and artistic life of the city; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Padgett was a graduate of Hope High School and dedicated 39 years of service to Carol Cable, after which he retired and devoted himself fully to his passion for the arts, making significant contributions in painting, collage, photography, writing, and music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Padgett was the original lead singer of "Witchcraft" by the R&B group The Spiders, a song later popularized by Elvis Presley, and was perhaps best known as a member of the 1950s R&B Doo-Wop group, The Castaleers, who were inducted into the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame in 2014; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his musical accomplishments, Mr. Padgett was a prolific photographer, using his art to document the Black experience in Rhode Island. His work was displayed in galleries and publications, including the *Providence Journal*, and he generously donated his collection to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Padgett's commitment to preserving and promoting the arts was also seen through his role in the Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society, and his legacy continues through the Padgett Arts Series, launched in September 2023 at Jacqueline Clements Park which is located on Dudley Street in the Upper South Providence neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Dell G. Padgett passed away on April 30, 2024, at the age of 87, leaving behind an enduring legacy in both the arts and the Providence community, which will be remembered for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his lifelong contributions to the arts, culture, and the community of Providence, it is fitting to honor Mr. Padgett's legacy with an honorary street renaming.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby honors the life and legacy of Dell G. Padgett and calls for the honorary renaming of Dudley Street in Providence's 11th Ward to "Padgett Way"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Dell G. Padgett as a token of the City Council's esteem and respect for his lasting contributions to the City of Providence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Department of Public Works so that they may work to manufacture, install and maintain one or more honorary signs at prominent and appropriate locations along Dudley Street, which shall reflect the Padgett Way honorary designation.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OPPORTUNITY,
PROSPERITY AND EDUCATION (HOPE),
COUNCILOR JUAN M. PICHARDO, Chair**

**Transmits the Following with Recommendation the Same be Approved,
As Amended:**

**COUNCILWOMAN ANTHONY, COUNCILORS ANDERBOIS, PICHARDO,
COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES
AND VARGAS**

Resolution in Support of the Recommendations from the Special Senate Commission to Review and Provide Recommendations for Professional and Labor-Management Standards that Offer School-Based Flexibility and Accountability for Employees of the Providence Public Schools and the Potential Application of Customized Organizational Models in the City of Providence.

WHEREAS, The Providence Public School District has been under state control since 2019, a period that has brought significant challenges for the City of Providence in navigating its financial responsibilities and striving to improve educational outcomes for its students; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Public School District could return to local control as early as July of 2025, underscoring the need for the city to develop strategic approaches and leverage available tools to address systemic issues and support meaningful reforms; and

WHEREAS, While external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and internal setbacks have further complicated progress, the City of Providence remains focused on implementing comprehensive solutions that will create the conditions necessary for a successful return to local control of the Providence Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, From October 2023 to May 2024, a member of the Providence City Council and a representative of the Mayor's office served on the Special Senate Commission to review and provide recommendations for professional and labor-management standards that offer school-based flexibility and accountability for employees of the Providence Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The recommendations outlined in the report of this commission are not a singular solution but are designed to create workable and positive conditions that will help the Providence Public School District prepare for a successful transition back to local governance; and

WHEREAS, The commission's report highlights the critical role of collaborative collective bargaining and capacity-building initiatives, including investments in principal training programs, teacher-led professional development, and labor-management collaboration facilitators, in fostering an environment of professional unionism and educational quality; and

WHEREAS, The Council supports the recommendations found in the commission's final report as they pertain to state legislation, including the recommendation that the Rhode Island General Assembly pass legislation codifying a state constitutional right to education; and

WHEREAS, The Special Senate Commission explored models that provide schools with increased autonomy and flexibility in decision-making, tailored to the unique needs of their students and communities; and

WHEREAS, Springfield, Massachusetts, a city of similar size and demographics as Providence, serves as a strong example of this approach, having successfully implemented it through Empower Schools, demonstrating measurable improvements in student achievement local leadership, innovation, and targeted support; and

WHEREAS, A letter of support for the commission's report was submitted and added to the public record, signed by the City Council President, the Mayor, and the President of the Providence School Board, signifying united support from the city.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby expresses its full support for the recommendations put forth by the Special Senate Commission for Providence Public Schools, including meaningful exploration of establishing customized organizational models in the city of Providence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council specifically commends the leadership of the Commission Chair, Senator Sam Zurier, a former City Councilor, a former Providence Public School Board member, and a proud parent of Providence Public School graduates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council urges all relevant stakeholders to work collaboratively to implement these recommendations, recognizing the critical importance of ensuring high-quality education for all students and fostering a supportive and empowering environment for educators; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the offices of the Honorable Mayor Brett Smiley, Governor Daniel McKee, Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi, Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Angélica Infante-Green, Superintendent of Providence Public School District Dr. Javier Montañez, and to all those who served on the State Senate Special Commission.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of items 24 through 28 and Pass on a Voice Vote, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Petition from John O. Mancini, Esquire, Mancini Carter, 56 Pine Street, Third Floor, The Hanley Building, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, dated February 3, 2025, on behalf of PRI XIV, LP (the "Applicant"), LLC, requesting to change the official Zoning Ordinance of the City of Providence, by requesting a text change to amend Section 604(G)(4)(h).

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| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Committee on Ordinances |

Petitions for Compensation for Injuries and Damages, viz:

Robert Iacovelli (25-018)
Rebecca Sirois (25-019)
Paulo Nunes
(Douglas Chabot, Esquire) (25-020)
Monica Ambroziak
(Sharon D. Sybel, Esquire) (25-021)
Vincent J. Rosario
(Mildred J. Benito, Legal Assistant) (25-022)
Harrie Wheeler
(Christopher E. Fay, Esquire) (25-023)
Progressive Direct Insurance Company
a/s/o Gabriel Arriagada (25-024)
MAPFRE Insurance
a/s/o Nida Medeiros (25-025)
Terrence J. Higgins (25-026)

John Nelson (25-027)
Government Employees Insurance Company
a/s/o Howard S. Rakia (Lynda L. Laing,
Esquire) (25-028)
Traveler's Insurance
a/s/o Ting Zheng (25-029)
The Hartford Insurance
a/s/o The Housing Authority of the City
of Providence (25-030)
Lawrence Thompson
(Christopher E. Fay, Esquire) (25-031)
Michael Fortenberry
(George L. Santopietro, Esquire) (25-032)
Jozman Reyes (25-033)

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| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Committee on Claims and Pending Suits |

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Communication from Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent, Providence Parks Department, dated February 5, 2025, informing the City Clerk of those employees approved and authorized to take City vehicles home, pursuant to Section 2-13 "Personal Use of City Vehicles" of the Providence Code of Ordinances.

Communication from Emily W. Crowell, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, dated February 5, 2025, informing the City Clerk of those employees approved and authorized to take City vehicles home, pursuant to Section 2-13 "Personal Use of City Vehicles" of the Providence Code of Ordinances.

Communication from Derek M. Silva, Chief, Fire Department, dated February 6, 2025, informing the City Clerk of those employees approved and authorized to take City vehicles home, pursuant to Section 2-13 "Personal Use of City Vehicles" of the Providence Code of Ordinances.

Communication from Patricia A. Coyne-Fague, Esquire, Director, Department of Public Works, dated February 7, 2025, informing the City Clerk of those employees approved and authorized to take City vehicles home, pursuant to Section 2-13 “Personal Use of City Vehicles” of the Providence Code of Ordinances.

Communication from Valentino Tirocchi, Jr., submitting Raze Building Permit RAZE-25-1, for the property located at 83 Pilsudski Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909.

Report from Capital Cove Development, LLC (Ground Lessee), Station Row c/o JMC 100 Grandview Road, Suite 205, Braintree, Massachusetts 02184, submitting the Annual Tax Stabilization Report FY2024.

Report from Joseph I. Mulligan III, Director, Department of Planning & Development, dated February 3, 2025, submitting the 2023-2024 Certified Local Government Annual Report of the Providence Historic District Commission.

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| RESULT: RECEIVED |
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COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of items 29 through 37, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Refers item 29 to the Committee on Ordinances, Refers item 30 to the Committee on Claims and Pending Suits and Receives items 31 through 37.

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

"We have had some guests in our chamber several meetings in a row now and I just want to call out and thank members of Jewish Oasis for Peace and other affiliated collation members who are here with us. It's frankly like never been more important for people to be engaged at every level of government. So, I just want to thank you for being here tonight and I look forward to further work."

COUNCILWOMAN PETERSON Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

"I want to be quick, but I do want to acknowledge somewhat of a proverbial elephant in the room. I think all of us have received phone calls from our constituents regarding the numbers that have come forth in letter form about the revaluations on our properties. That among other things is just a continuation of all the things that are really facing us not only as a council but as a city as a whole on immediate concerns for our constituents. I wanted to advocate just a little bit about how important it is for us to really move in unison on this particular subject. There is a lot here that we have to unpack for our neighbors and ourselves. Truthfully, I was extremely alarmed to see the differences from last year to this year and the assessment of my home. I think one of the things that needs to be pointed out on this, is that we need to approach this as much as it is a very heated conversation and it needs to be extremely collaborative in how we move forward because when we don't move forward in that capacity we fail our residents. This is one Providence, while we all have many different takes on how we need to do things, we do need to move forward in the very best possible way for all of our constituents and I really want to engage my fellow councilors in offering solutions and finding answers and asking a lot of questions because I am in a situation myself where I am at a loss to be able to provide property answers to my constituents right now and I think that without proper engagement and how we move forward on this for them we will not represent our constituency in the best possible way. So, I just wanted to advocate for a little bit of comradery and collaboration on this as we continue to move on. This is a big one for our residents and I think it's important to highlight especially as quickly as we received these letters. Thank you."

COUNCILWOMAN RYAN Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

“Councilwoman Peterson, thank you very much for your remarks, you were right on the money. A lot of us, I am sure, have received a number of calls in response to our constituents getting the envelopes talking about the increases. We all know it’s a statistical increase and we all can do the math. Many properties have shot up in price, the function of the shorting in housing, but the reality is we are having a lot of discussion behind closed doors on a number of topics. We need to have these hearings out loud, in public, in our committees. I have a resolution that was sent to committee and I’m asking it to be heard. We have to have all of these discussions openly and we have to have the data. I had a nice chat with you, Council President, and you were pushing to make sure that we have everything at the table so that we can have healthy open discussion, but it’s critical because there are too many discussions that are happening outside of this chamber. We are at a loss because we don’t have all of the information handy and as a body we haven’t debated it, we haven’t discussed it and we need to. So, I would like to encourage us all to push the Finance Committee to hold open meetings on the topics that are before us relative to finance because they’re critically important and they’re going to impact every single homeowner in the City of Providence as well as renters. The taxes that people pay, it’s a big job, it’s the biggest topic that we are charged with discussing. So, I want to encourage before I sit down, open, complete and comprehensive discussions that are transparent. Thank you.”

COUNCILWOMAN ANTHONY Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

“I agree with my fellow councilor who just spoke. I have asked just to address them separately, but I believe we need some information from the re-valuation company as to how they have their process and what data they used. I understand it’s statistical, which is based a lot on sales prices, but there are many questions to ask and I think the councilors, we all need a very good understanding of how that was done. So, I have already asked the administration to make available the re-valuation company and we’re hoping that something may be done next week just to that we can all engage in a conversation, and also the resolution on the exceeding of the cap is certainly something that needs to be discussed and we are going to be holding a hearing shortly. So, thank you so much and I look forward to having these discussions in an open and transparent manner.”

COUNCILMAN VARGAS Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

“I rise and echo, all my constituents that I have been getting a lot of phone calls that the property tax went up triple and I have a lot of fixed income people and now my work is going to be a little harder to look for a solution because they already valued the property. I don’t know if they will go back and say oh, we made a mistake on your property. Even though we are going to bring them in next week, they will say that we used this data and that’s it. So, our job will be to work on the tax rate. How we can work on the tax rate to avoid having a bunch of houses boarded up because Home Depot going to be very happy selling plywood to put on the windows when these people start boarding up the properties and not paying the taxes. That is where the problem will be. So, I would ask all my colleagues please remember our constituents and our people are getting hurt and we have to do something about it and the administration has to do something about it to. They are sleeping, we better wake them up. Thank you.”

COUNCILWOMAN RYAN Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

“I apologize, I rise twice on the same topic, but I do want to share with my colleague, there is an appeal process, so if you feel that your constituents feel that the value is not right or justified they can go through that process. I have already encouraged a few of my residents to do just that. So, just rising to clarify that, but, also, I think it’s important to recognize that through the budget process, we will work very diligently with the finance teams, the administration and ours to make sure we deliver a mill rate that is fair and reasonable and the best we can do given the situation that we’re in. I know it’s on the revaluation statement not to tell people not to use the current mill rate because it won’t apply, that is yet to be determined. So, I think a lot of people are frightened, it’s our job to calm people down and tell them that the work is ahead of us and it’s hard work. I am just again saying we need to have those discussions sooner rather than later. We need to have full and thorough vetting of our finances so that we can come up with a budget next year that is fair and responsible. Thank you.”

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a Point of Personal Expression and states:

“I want to say that’s a good reminder that we will be asking the office to just make very clear instructions for all councilors about the appeal process and a little explanation around the tax rate. I want to share that, so that folks who are newer to the council, that there is something very clear to explain and have this discussion with our constituents.”

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS
"IN CONGRATULATIONS"**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Resolution Extending Congratulations.

RESOLVED, that the Members of the City Council hereby extend their Sincere
Congratulations to the following:

Caleb T. Horton, City Archivist, City of Providence, in recognition of all that you do for the City of Providence!

Arthur Archie Johnson, in recognition of being the recipient of the 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Hall of Fame Award.

Cedric Paul Huntley, in recognition of posthumously being the recipient of the 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Hall of Fame Award.

Shane Alvin Lee, in recognition of being the recipient of the 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Hall of Fame Award.

Joaquina Bela Teixeira, in recognition of your commitment, dedication, support and service to the community.

Linda A'Vanti-Deishini, in recognition of your commitment, dedication, support and service to the community.

James Clements, Jr., in recognition of your commitment, dedication, support and service to the community.

Theresa Guzman Stokes, in recognition of your commitment, dedication, support and service to the community.

Luke Teeman, in recognition of being posthumously celebrated for a lifetime of community support to those in need, especially for the youth and families of the CLPVD - Wanskuck Library.

Ricci Family Dentistry, in recognition of your exemplary and compassionate dental care provided by a family owned and staffed practice, to countless patients for more than 35 years, located in the heart of the Elmhurst, Mt. Pleasant and Manton neighborhoods; we recognize your unwavering support and care for the needs of your surrounding community, which also extends well beyond dental care, the City Council thanks you for your steadfast commitment and dedication to the community.

Caleb T. Horton, City Archivist, City of Providence, in recognition of your years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to preserving and sharing the history of Providence. Through your stewardship of the city’s archives, you have safeguarded our past and brought it to life, ensuring that our history remains accessible, relevant, and deeply connected to our present and future. Your expertise and advocacy have enriched City Hall and countless civic events- Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Veterans Day, and more- deepening our understanding of who we are, where we have been, and the legacy we carry forward.

Caleb T. Horton, City Archivist, City of Providence, in recognition of your dedication, leadership, and invaluable contributions to preserving and promoting Providence’s rich history. Through your stewardship of the city’s archives, you have ensured that our past remains alive, accessible, and deeply woven into the fabric of our community.

James Riley, 2025 St. Patrick’s Day Grand Marshal, in recognition of being selected Grand Marshal for the 2025 Providence St. Patrick’s Day Parade Celebrations and for your participation at the 2025 St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on Monday, March 17, 2025 at Providence City Hall.

Donald Kavanagh, 2025 St. Patrick’s Day Deputy Grand Marshal, in recognition of being selected Deputy Grand Marshal for the 2025 Providence St. Patrick’s Day Parade Celebrations and for your participation at the 2025 St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on Monday, March 17, 2025 at Providence City Hall.

PVD St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee, in recognition of your participation at the 2025 St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on Monday, March 17, 2025 at Providence City Hall. Thank you!

Danielle Lucini, Director, Mt. Pleasant High School Music Program and the Mt. Pleasant High School Chorus, in recognition of your participation at the 2025 St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on Monday, March 17, 2025 at Providence City Hall. Thank you!

Reverend Giacomo Capoverdi, in recognition of your participation at the 2025 St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on Monday, March 17, 2025 at Providence City Hall. Thank you!

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 38 and Pass on a Voice Vote, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.

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| RESULT: | PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS
"IN MEMORIAM"**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Resolution Extending Sympathy.

RESOLVED, That the Members of the City Council hereby extend their Sincere
Sympathy to the families of the following:

Richard A. Imondi

**COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 39 and Pass on a
Unanimous Rising Vote, Seconded by COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.**

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| RESULT: | PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Councilman Espinal |
| SECONDER: | Councilor Sanchez |
| AYES: | Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilmen Espinal, Goncalves, Councilwomen Graves, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14. |
| ABSENT: | Councilwoman Harris – 1. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND RULE 16(B) OF THE RULES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL IN ORDER TO TAKE A MATTER NOT
APPEARING ON THE PRINTED DOCKET**

**COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Suspend Rule 16(b) of the Rules of the City Council
in order to take a matter Not Appearing on the Printed Docket, Seconded by
COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.**

APPOINTMENT BY HIS HONOR THE MAYOR

Communication from His Honor the Mayor, dated February 19, 2025, Informing the Honorable Members of the City Council, that pursuant to Sections 302(b) and 1102 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 31 passed in 1987, he is this day appointing **Erlin Rogel**, of 21 Lynde Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908, as a member of the **Board of Licenses** for a term to expire on January 31, 2028, and respectfully submits the same for your approval. (Mr. Rogel replaces Ms. Bernal whose term expired on January 31,2025)

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|----------------|----------------------|
| RESULT: | REFERRED |
| TO: | Committee on Finance |

**COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 40, Seconded by
COUNCILOR SANCHEZ.**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Refers item 40 to the Committee on Finance.

CONVENTION

There being no further business, on Motion of **COUNCILMAN ESPINAL**, Seconded by **COUNCILOR SANCHEZ**, it is voted to adjourn in memory of Isabel A. Batista at 6:54 o'clock P.M., to meet again **THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025 at 6:00 o'clock P.M.**



TINA L. MASTROIANNI
CITY CLERK

*This meeting was live streamed and the recording is available on our
YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GWf6KYRWAo&t=3s>*

The City of Providence is committed to providing individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate and benefit from the City's programs, activities and services. If you have a disability and require accommodations in order to fully participate in this activity, contact Leonela Felix, Esq., Ethics Education and ADA Coordinator at 401-680-5333 or LFelix@ProvidenceRI.gov. Providing at least 72 hours' notice will help to ensure availability.