

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 38*

**Approved February 13, 2014**

WHEREAS, Eighty percent of all antibiotics sold in the United States are used in livestock production; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a majority of antibiotics given to livestock are being used “irresponsibly”; and

WHEREAS, Antibiotics are routinely fed to livestock for growth promotion and to avoid diseases caused by overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, a practice known as “nontherapeutic use”; and

WHEREAS, Nontherapeutic use of antibiotics creates ideal conditions for the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria; and

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other leading scientists and medical experts, including four Nobel laureates, warn that the use of these drugs in food animals creates new strains of dangerous, antibiotic-resistant bacteria; and

WHEREAS, The CDC estimates that in the U.S., more than two million people fall ill every year with antibiotic resistant infections, with 23,000 Americans dying from those infections; and

WHEREAS, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, commonly known as MRSA, alone infects more than 80,500 people and kills nearly 19,000 annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Antibiotic resistant bacteria have caused several food-borne illness outbreaks, including a 2011 outbreak of antibiotic resistant Salmonella that lead to one of the largest meat recalls in USDA history; and

WHEREAS, The medical and social costs of antibiotic resistant infections in just one hospital for one year are estimated to be more than \$13 million; and

WHEREAS, Antibiotic resistant infections can require prolonged and costlier treatments, extended hospital stays, and result in greater disability and higher death rates compared with infections that are easily treatable with antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, The CDC deemed the nontherapeutic use of antibiotics to promote livestock growth unnecessary and recommends phasing out the practice; and

WHEREAS, Two bills are currently before Congress, the Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act (S. 1256) and the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (H.R. 1150), that would prohibit the nontherapeutic feeding of medically important antibiotics to livestock and withdraw FDA approval of antibiotics for nontherapeutic use, unless the manufacturer can demonstrate such use will not harm human health due to antibiotic resistance; and

WHEREAS, More than 375 public, consumer and environmental health groups, including the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the Infectious Disease Society of America, and Food & Water Watch support the legislation; and

WHEREAS, As public servants, the City Council has a moral obligation to protect the people of Providence from the dangers posed by antibiotic resistant bacteria.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby urge Congress to pass the Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act (S. 1256) and the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (H.R. 1150).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the sponsors of the bills, the Providence General Assembly delegation, and the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 06 2014

READ AND PASSED

*[Signature]*  
PRES.  
*[Signature]*  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

*[Signature]*  
Mayor  
Date: 2/13/14