

City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL*No. 29***EFFECTIVE January 27, 2020**

WHEREAS, In November 2018 Rhode Island voters approved a ballot measure authorizing a \$250,000,000 bond for public school improvements throughout Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, In November, 2018, Providence voters approved a ballot measure authorizing \$160,000,000 in municipal bond financing to maintain and improve the City's inventory of school buildings; and

WHEREAS, At its February 7, 2019 regular meeting, the Providence City Council passed a resolution approving the Mayor's proposal to bond up to \$20,000,000 for purposes of improving the health and safety of the City's public schools, and

WHEREAS, In July of 2019 the Rhode Island Department of Education released a report identifying significant deficiencies in the physical condition of the City's public schools; and

WHEREAS, In a statement to WPRI in August of 2019, the Mayor's office indicated that the costs for school repairs are an evolving number based on the bids, change orders, and other factors; and

WHEREAS, On October 17, 2019, WPRI reported only one-third of the projects on the list of schools using funds from the \$30 million bond were completed; and

WHEREAS, On November 1, 2019 the Rhode Island Department of Education assumed control over Providence Public Schools, in part due to the City's failure to maintain the physical condition of the school infrastructure while reserving to the City of Providence certain limited responsibilities, including fiscal and operational responsibility (coordinated with the State) for the maintenance of school buildings; and

WHEREAS, Taxpayers in Providence and throughout Rhode Island deserve public oversight in how the bond money is being spent to repair the public schools in the City; and

WHEREAS, Parents, students and teachers deserve transparency in the efforts being taken to improve the condition of the City's public-school infrastructure given the substantial adverse impacts that face the City's public-school students should the City fail to provide adequate accommodations for their learning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence requests the Director of Public Property and the Mayor's Administration furnish monthly reports to the City Council that detail the location, type, and cost of all school building repairs that are ongoing in the City, including both capital and facility improvements, as well as a detailed outline of the administration's plan to address the facility and capital improvement needs of all public school buildings within the City moving forward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in addition to providing monthly reports to the Providence City Council, the Council further requests that the Director of Public Property and the Mayor's Administration create and continually update a website where parents and residents can visit to track the progress of ongoing school repairs within the City and plans to address infrastructure needs at every Providence Public School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution will be sent to the Mayor of Providence, Providence School Board, Superintendent for Schools, and the Commissioner of Education.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 16 2020

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

Effective ~~Without the~~
Mayor's ~~Signature~~


Shawn Seleck
City Clerk