

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 497

Approved August 13, 1987

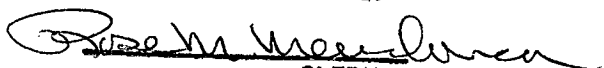
RESOLVED, That permission is hereby granted to The Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Avenue, to construct and maintain a tunnel beneath Fifth Street and associated land of the City of Providence, said tunnel to be located under Fifth Street, approximately 165 feet west of Summit Avenue and connect the main hospital building on the north side of Fifth Street at 164 Summit Avenue to a new Ambulatory Care Building to be erected on the south side of Fifth Street; subject to the Miriam Hospital meeting all requirements of the Rhode Island State Building Code and the plans submitted to the Director of Department of Inspection and Standards.

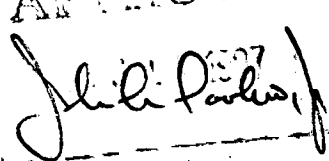
IN CITY COUNCIL

AUG 6 1987

READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
CLERK

APPROVED  
  
1987

THE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC WORKS

Approves Passage of  
The Within Resolution

*Rose M. Menlowe*  
Clerk Chairman  
July 15, 1987

THE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC WORKS

Approves Passage of  
The Within Resolution

*Rose M. Menlowe*  
Clerk Chairman  
April 8, 1987

IN CITY COUNCIL

Second <sup>ADR 16 1087</sup>  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

*Rose M. Menlowe*  
Clerk

PUBLIC WORKS

THE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC WORKS

May 13, 1987  
Recommends

*Michael R. Clement*  
Clerk

**CITY OF PROVIDENCE**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

**PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE:**

*The undersigned respectfully petitions your honorable body*

The Miriam Hospital of 164 Summit Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island, respectfully petitions the City Council to authorize The Miriam Hospital to construct and maintain a tunnel beneath Fifth Street and associated land of the City of Providence. The tunnel would be located under Fifth Street approximately 165 feet west of Summit Avenue. The tunnel would connect the main hospital building owned by The Miriam Hospital on the north side of Fifth Street at 164 Summit Avenue, and a new Ambulatory Care Building to be erected by The Miriam Hospital on the south side of Fifth Street. The tunnel will service the hospital by connecting utility services to the Ambulatory Care Building and providing covered access for transport of supplies and patients between the two buildings. The public interest will be served by eliminating such traffic across Fifth Street. Copies of the proposed plans of the tunnel are attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference and are entitled, "Site Plan of Land in Providence, R.I. for Miriam Hospital" by Louis Federici & Associates, 1" = 20', dated 12/8/86, and "Typical Section Through Tunnel", Besier Gipple Norden, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 1/2" = 1' - 0" dated June 27, 1986.

Respectfully submitted,

THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL  
164 Summit Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

BY:   
President

March 13, 1987

**FILED**

**MAR 13 4 15 PM '87**

**DEPT. OF CITY CLERK  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.**

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**MAR 19 1987**

**FIRST READING**

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

*Sam Menlove* **CLERK**

*From the Clerk's Desk*



# LICHT & SEMONOFF

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

One Park Row  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
401-421-8030  
Cable: LEVGO PVD Telex: 927614  
Telecopier: 272-9408

March 13, 1987

Rose Mendonca, City Clerk  
City of Providence  
City Hall, Room 311  
Providence, Rhode Island

Re: Miriam Hospital Petition to Permit Tunnel  
Under Fifth Street

Dear Ms. ~~Rose~~ Mendonca:

Enclosed please find a Petition to the City Council filed by The Miriam Hospital to construct a tunnel beneath Fifth Street, west of Summit Avenue, to provide access between the main hospital building and the new ambulatory care building. Also enclosed are copies of the plans referenced in the Petition.

We would appreciate it if you could assign this Petition to the docket for consideration at the next Council meeting.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,



SEAN O. COFFEY

SOC:mo  
Enclosures

Frank Licht  
Jacob Goodman  
Jeremiah J. Gorin\*  
Ralph P. Semonoff  
Richard F. Canning  
Melvin L. Zurier\*  
Bruce R. Rutenberg  
Norman G. Orodener  
Nathan W. Chace  
Michael R. Goldenberg  
William H. Cotter, III  
Robert N. Huseby  
Joseph DeAngelis  
Anthony F. Muri\*  
Robert A. Pitassi  
Frank N. Ray  
Robert B. Berkelhammer  
Patricia J. Igoe  
Carl I. Freedman  
Robert D. Fine\*  
Seth K. Gifford  
Susan Leach De Blasio\*  
Sean O. Coffey  
Victoria Lederberg  
Susan M. Huntley  
Barbara S. Cohen\*  
James P. Redding  
Lori Caron Silveira\*  
Casby Harrison, III

Daniel J. Murray  
Of Counsel

\*Also admitted in Massachusetts

City of Providence



Rhode Island

Department of City Clerk

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 23, 1987

**TO:**

**SUBJECT:** MIRIAM HOSPITAL, CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL

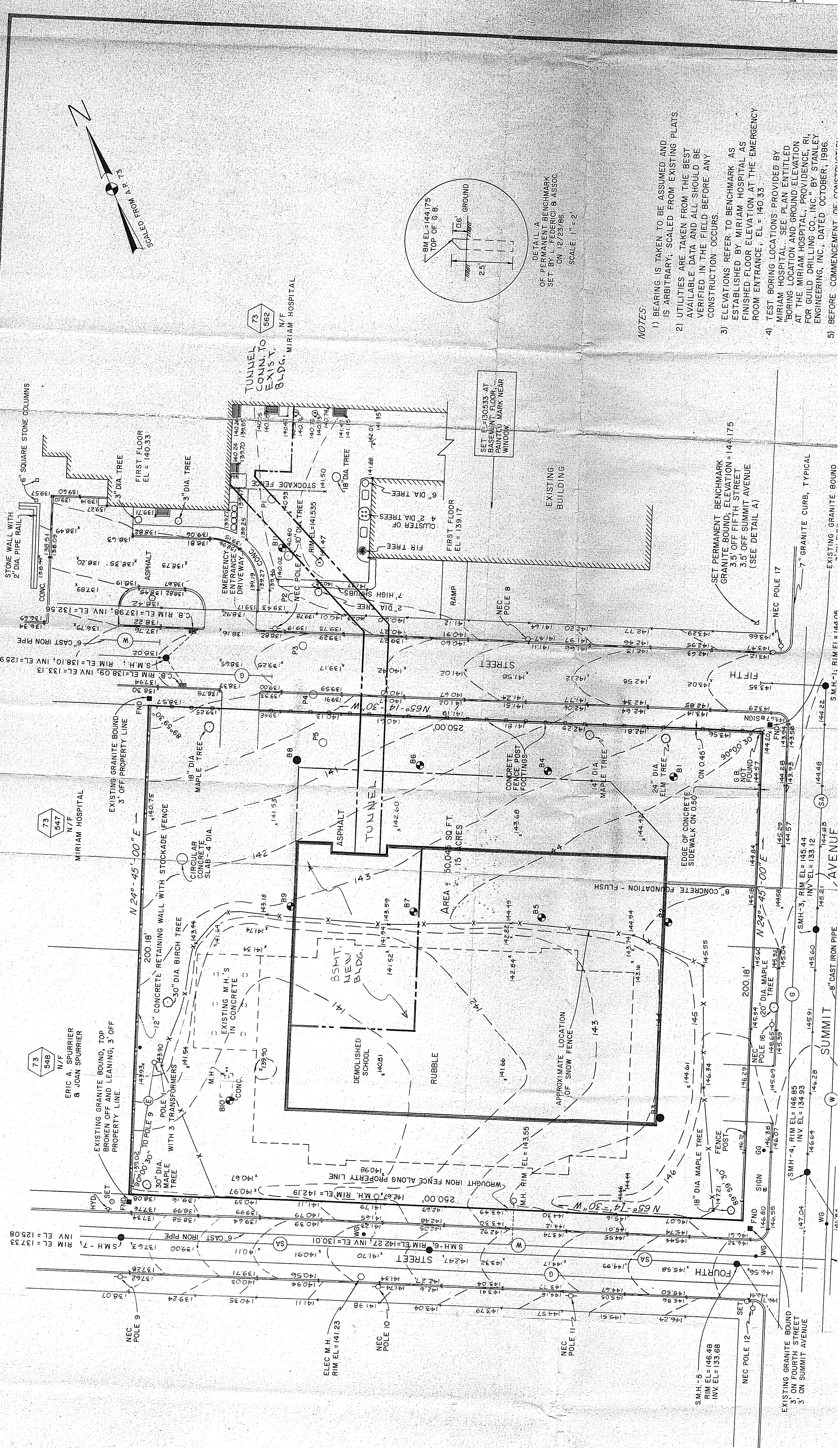
**CONSIDERED BY:** Committee on Public Works

**DISPOSITION:** Attached is a copy of the subject petition for your study and report back in writing to the above named committee, as soon as practical.

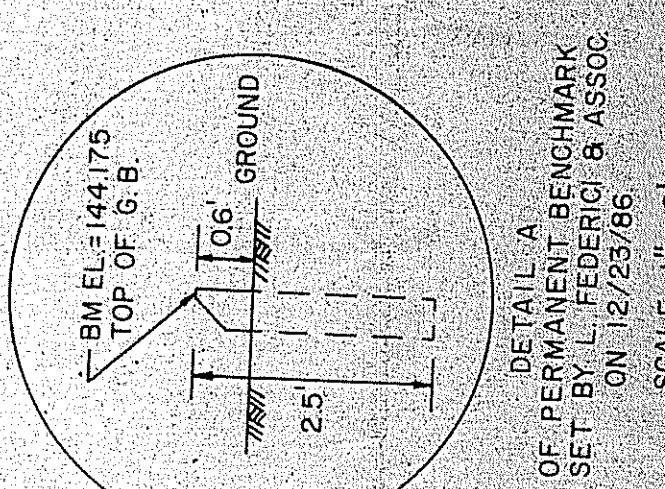
Merlin A. DeConti, Director of Inspection and Standards  
B. James Suzman, Traffic Engineer

Michael R. Clement,  
First Deputy **City Clerk**





- NOTES
- 1) BEARING IS TAKEN TO BE ASSUMED AND IS ARBITRARY; SCALED FROM EXISTING PLATS
  - 2) UTILITIES ARE TAKEN FROM THE BEST AVAILABLE DATA AND ALL SHOULD BE VERIFIED IN THE FIELD BEFORE ANY CONSTRUCTION OCCURS.
  - 3) ELEVATIONS REFER TO BENCHMARK AS ESTABLISHED BY MIRIAM HOSPITAL AS FINISHED FLOOR ELEVATION AT THE EMERGENCY ROOM ENTRANCE, EL = 140.33
  - 4) TEST BORING LOCATIONS PROVIDED BY MIRIAM HOSPITAL. SEE PLAN ENTITLED "BORING LOCATION AND GROUND ELEVATION AT THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL, PROVIDED BY FOR GUILD DRILLING CO., INC." BY STANLEY ENGINEERING, INC. DATED OCTOBER, 1986.
  - 5) BEFORE COMMENCEMENT



Please FAX to ...



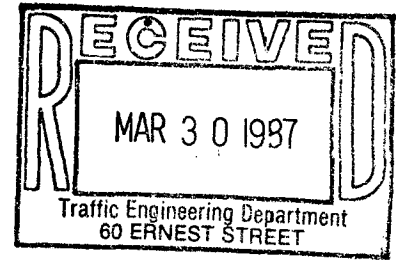
City of Providence



Rhode Island

Department of City Clerk

MEMORANDUM



DATE: March 23, 1987  
TO: B. James Suzman, Traffic Engineer  
SUBJECT: MIRIAM HOSPITAL, CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL  
CONSIDERED BY: Committee on Public Works

DISPOSITION: Attached is a copy of the subject petition for your study and report back in writing to the above named committee, as soon as practical.

Disposition:

This department concurs with the proposed building of tunnel for the Miriam Hospital from its existing facility on the north side of Fifth Street to its new facility on the south side of the same street, the former Summit Avenue school. During construction assuming other city departments offer no objections, the following is recommended:

1. Detail Police Patrolman on-duty during construction hours.
2. 1 Lane of traffic to be open at all times.
3. The contractor shall be responsible to secure the proper road closing forms from this department and the Public Works Dep't.
4. The contractor in accord with the regulations of the Traffic Engineer shall post a marked and signed detour including Emergency No Parking signs in the construction area.
5. On a temporary basis, both lanes of traffic may be closed with prior permission of the Traffic Engineer excluding the 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. hours.

B. James Suzman,  
Traffic Engineer  
March 30, 1987

cc: Lt. Bossone, Commander-Detail Office

*Michael R. Clement*  
Michael R. Clement,  
First Deputy City Clerk



## Department of Inspections and Standards

*"Building Pride In Providence"*

### MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Public Works  
From: Merlin A. DeConti, Jr., Director *MAJ*  
Date: March 27, 1987  
Re: Miriam Hospital - Construction of Tunnel

This department has reviewed the plans submitted for the proposed tunnel to be constructed under Fifth Street by Miriam Hospital. We have met with Miriam Hospital with regard to the construction of this tunnel previous to their submission of plans to the City Council. During those meetings, they have assured us that they will meet all requirements of the R.I. State Building Code with regard to fire separation, ventilation, etc.

This department, therefore, has no objection to the petition as submitted.

FILED

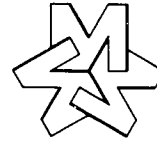
MAR 31 10 01 AM '87

DEPT. OF CITY CLERK  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.



**THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL**

164 Summit Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906



Patient Care  
Education  
Research

7 April 1987

Honorable President and Members of City Council  
City of Providence  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Honorable Sirs:

Regarding the attached comments on the proposed tunnel to be constructed under Fifth Street, the Miriam Hospital is designing the tunnel to meet all requirements of the Rhode Island State Building Code, and will abide by the recommendations and requirements of the City Traffic Engineer. Further, the tunnel construction drawings and plans will be reviewed again with the appropriate City Departments prior to construction.

Respectfully submitted,

The Miriam Hospital  
Don F. Svendsen, P.E.  
Executive Engineer

DFS:kl  
attachments



Affiliated with Brown University, Program in Medicine

Member, Council of Teaching Hospitals, Association of American Medical Colleges



Department of Inspections and Standards  
*"Building Pride In Providence"*

RECEIVED

APR - 1 1987

FACILITIES ENGINEERING  
DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

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From: Merlin A. DeConti, Jr., Director *MD*  
Date: March 27, 1987  
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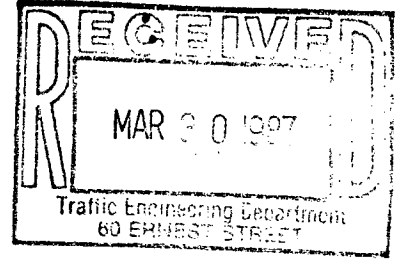
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Rhode Island

## Department of City Clerk

### MEMORANDUM



DATE: March 23, 1987

TO: B. James Suzman, Traffic Engineer

SUBJECT: MIRIAM HOSPITAL, CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL

CONSIDERED BY: Committee on Public Works

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B. James Suzman  
Traffic Engineer  
March 30, 1987

cc: Lt. Bossone, Commander-Detail Office

*Michael R. Clement*  
Michael R. Clement,  
First Deputy City Clerk



City of Providence



Rhode Island

Department of City Clerk

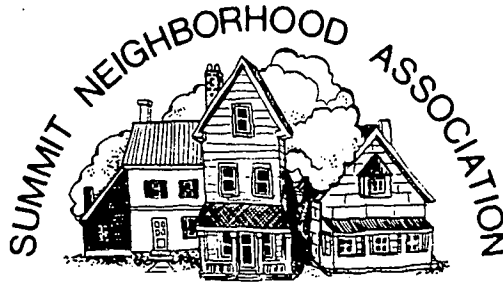
**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 8, 1987  
TO: Rocco A. DeLuca, Director of Public Works  
SUBJECT: MIRIAM HOSPITAL - CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL  
CONSIDERED BY: Committee on Public Works

DISPOSITION:

I have been requested to forward to you, by the Committee on Public Works, the attached matter. The Committee has approved the subject matter and referred the same to the City Council, with recommendation of passage, contingent on your approval.

Michael R. Clement,  
First Deputy City Clerk



112 Fourth Street  
May 11, 1987

Public Works Committee  
Providence City Council

Dear Members of the Committee:

First, we want to thank you for accepting Councilman Lopes's request for a public hearing on Wednesday evening to consider Miriam Hospital's proposal for a tunnel under Fifth Street.

The issue of the proposed tunnel is of vital concern to the Summit Avenue neighborhood because it is part of the hospital's larger plan to construct a multi-purpose outpatient facility on the site of the old Summit Avenue School. Area residents have long opposed this plan because such a concentration of activities would overwhelm an already densely-populated residential community with massive increases in noise, traffic volume, and parking congestion, and would be entirely out of character with the surrounding neighborhood. We are also fearful that placement of the clinic on that site would lead the hospital to seek permission to expand further into the next block, resulting in the demolition of more houses and the loss of residential property and land.

Neighborhood residents attended hearings on Miriam's planned outpatient clinic at the Rhode Island Department of Health, but we were told that the proposed facility's impact on the surrounding community was an issue beyond the scope of the State's review process, and should be addressed at the City level. In the meantime, Miriam Hospital has acquired the sizable property of the old Rhode Island Auditorium on North Main Street. After consulting professional medical opinion, we are convinced that it is entirely feasible for the hospital to adjust their plans and build all of the proposed clinic on the Rhode Island Auditorium site, except for the operating rooms which could be located on land they currently use for a parking lot adjacent to their main building. The Auditorium site is large enough to offer plenty of area for additional parking.

We have always recognized Miriam Hospital's service to the community, but have found its expansion policies insensitive to neighborhood concerns. With its recent acquisition of the Rhode Island Auditorium property, we believe the hospital now has alternative space sufficient for expansion that will not have such a devastating impact on its neighbors. We ask, then, that the Public Works Committee vote to deny permission for the tunnel which Miriam proposes to build as part of their plan for the outpatient clinic on the old Summit Avenue School site.

Sincerely yours,

*Elizabeth Daniels*  
Elizabeth Daniels

*Steve Rabson*  
Steve Rabson, Chairman  
*Doug Wood*  
Doug Wood  
Residential Development Committee



# **S.W.A.P.**

## **STOP WASTING ABANDONED PROPERTY**

May 13, 1987

Councilman James A. Petrosinelli  
Chair, Public Works Committee  
City Hall  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Councilman Petrosinelli:

I am writing to express my concern about the Miriam Hospital's plans to build a tunnel to connect the hospital to the new outpatient clinic. It is difficult to say no to health and welfare, but one must raise the question whether or not, at some point, the City should begin to exact some concessions from the institutions who share the neighborhoods and do so on a tax-exempt basis.

Of particular concern is Miriam Hospital's recent purchase of a number of the dwellings on Fourth Street, outside of their prescribed institutional zone. At a time when decent and affordable housing is in critical danger of disappearing, the spectre of the Hospital appearing before the Zoning Board at some future date to propose conversion of these houses from residential to another use on the basis of a fait accompli is alarming. Miriam Hospital should be sent back to the drawing board to revise their long-range plans with due consideration of the needs of the neighborhood and the City which have supported them over the years. One can only wonder as to the Hospital's plans for the residential units it now owns on Fourth and Eighth Streets. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David A. Karoff  
Executive Director

cc: H. Brewster  
N. Easton  
D. Dillon  
D. Lopes  
T. O'Connor  
J. Rollins

**439 Pine St. , Providence, R.I. 02907**

**(401) 272-0526**



# Residents protest Miriam's plans for clinic linked to hospital by tunnel

They call it one more example of 'bad neighbor' acts

By SHARON GRIFFIN  
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE — A Miriam Hospital proposal to build a tunnel under Fifth Street to connect the main hospital and a new outpatient clinic drew sharp criticism from neighbors yesterday.

At a hearing before the City Council's Public Works Committee on a request by the hospital to build beneath a city street, neighbors said Miriam wouldn't need a tunnel if it adjusted its plans and built the clinic at the site of the old Rhode Island Auditorium, which Miriam recently purchased.

The hospital intends to build the

clinic at the site of the former Summit Avenue School.

"Miriam has been a bad neighbor and continues to be a bad neighbor," Charlotte O'Kelly of Summit Avenue said.

If not for Miriam, she said, the neighborhood would be a quiet residential area.

Traffic generated by Miriam, especially during shift changes, "endangers our children" and creates noise and pollution, she said.

O'Kelly said she's glad the hospital bought the arena but believes it should use the space for the new outpatient clinic.

The matter ultimately will be decided by the City Council.

Sean O. Coffey, the lawyer representing Miriam, told the committee that the tunnel would eliminate the need for separate heating and air conditioning units in the buildings because mechanical equipment

would be linked.

It also would remove the need for a loading dock and serve as a passageway for patients.

## Lawyer, neighbors to meet

"Would it be asking too much if I asked you to meet with neighborhood groups," asked Councilman John J. Lombardi.

"For what purpose?" Coffey asked. Lombardi said a meeting would make neighbors aware of the hospital's plans and get input from them.

Coffey agreed to the meeting but asked the board not to let scheduling of the session hold up a decision on the matter.

Jill Singewald, who lives near the hospital, told the committee that in 1982, Miriam told neighbors it would not be feasible to build a tunnel because of a large shelf of bedrock in the area.

Miriam officials also said then that cables and sewer pipes beneath the street would make the project extremely difficult, Singewald said.

So why is the project feasible now when it wasn't in 1982, she questioned.

"They have yet to tell the neighbors the truth about anything," she said. "They were either fooling us then or fooling us now."

The tunnel is not the only issue, said Richard A. Wessner. He asked that the City Council reconsider its decision to allow Miriam to build at the Summit Avenue School site.

At the time the decision was made, Miriam officials argued that they had no other alternatives. "Things are different now," he said, adding that the residential area is continually threatened by Miriam's unchecked expansion.

PS 5/14/87

Rose M. Mendonca  
City Clerk

—  
Clerk of Council

—  
Clerk of Committees



Michael R. Clement  
First Deputy

—  
Jean M. Angelone  
Second Deputy

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

September 3, 1987

Mr. Daniel Kane, President  
The Miriam Hospital  
164 Summit Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

Dear Mr. Kane:

Enclosed is certified copy of Resolution No. 497,  
approved August 13, 1987, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Rose M. Mendonca  
City Clerk

RMM/bp

Enc.