



Executive Chamber, City of Providence, Rhode Island

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.
MAYOR

March 31, 1978

The Honorable Members of
the City Council
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Honorable Members:

I am this day appointing Mrs. Charlotte E. Woods of 672 Prairie Avenue, Apartment 613, Providence to the Providence Housing Authority, for a term of office of five years. Mrs. Woods will replace Elizabeth Lopes, as a Tenant Commissioner.

I respectfully notify the Honorable Council of this appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.
VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor of Providence

VAC

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 6 1978

READ:
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Joseph M. Marlowe CLERK

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, CHARLOTTE E. WOODS, do

solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of

MEMBER - PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY

to the best of my ability.

Charlotte E Woods

or

I, VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR., MAYOR

do hereby certify that on the 12th day of APRIL, A. D. 19 78,

I did administer unto CHARLOTTE E. WOODS

duly appointed to the office of

MEMBER - PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY

the above subscribed oath.

Vincent A Cianci

October 21, 1976

David Joyce, Secretary-Treasurer
and Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Providence
673 Academy Avenue
Providence, RI 02908

Re: Term of Elizabeth M. Lopes

Dear Mr. Joyce:

The following is an opinion regarding the length of term of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Lopes who is serving as a Commissioner of the Providence Housing Authority. A brief statement as to the applicable sections of the Rhode Island General Laws is necessary for proper consideration of this matter.

*Sec. 45-25-10 of the Rhode Island General Laws, 1956, as amended, entitled, "Appointment and Terms of Commissioners--Organization and Assistance" reads:

"That the Housing Authority of the City of Providence shall consist of eleven (11) commissioners who shall be residents of the City of Providence. At all times three (3) of the commissioners shall be occupants of public housing, which commissioners shall be appointed from a list of nominees chosen yearly by the occupants of public housing in open elections, each housing project choosing three (3) nominees from among its occupants."

This section also states:

"A commissioner shall hold office until his successor has been appointed or elected and has qualified. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term..." (emphasis added)

On August 2, 1971, in accordance with the provision of Sec. 45-25-10 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956, as amended, William B. Cooley, Sr. of 202 Thurbers Avenue was

reappointed as a member of the Providence Housing Authority for a five-year term ending on July 11, 1976 (said copy of letter by Mayor Joseph A. Doorley, Jr. was submitted to the City Council on August 2, 1971 and acquired by the undersigned from the City Clerk's Office).

On August 30, 1974, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 218 of the Public Laws of 1972, as amended, entitled, "Providence Housing Authority," Mayor Joseph A. Doorley, Jr., in a letter sent to the City Council, appointed Ms. Elizabeth Lopes to succeed Mr. William B. Cooley whose term had expired (said copy of letter by Mayor Joseph A. Doorley was submitted to the City Council on August 30, 1974 and acquired by the undersigned from the City Clerk's Office). Additional information regarding the appointment of Ms. Lopes was furnished in a letter of August 17, 1976 from Attorney John F. Cicilline, Legal Advisor to the said Authority, in which he stated "At the time Ms. Lopes was appointed, no yearly list of nominees existed beyond that originally compiled in 1972."

Based upon the above statement of facts, it appears that there is a discrepancy in the letters of Mayor Joseph A. Doorley, Jr. submitted to the City Council on August 2, 1971 and August 30, 1974. In the first, he stated that Mr. Cooley was appointed as a commissioner to the said Authority for a five-year term ending on July 11, 1976. In the second, he stated in the letter of August 30, 1974, that Ms. Lopes would succeed Mr. Cooley whose term had expired.

Notwithstanding the apparent discrepancy regarding the two letters as stated above, it appears that if, in fact, Ms. Lopes succeeded Mr. Cooley, her term of office would be dictated by that part of Sec. 45-25-10 of the Rhode Island General Laws, 1956, as amended, which reads, "Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term." Also, based upon the letter from Atty. Cicilline which stated "At the time that Ms. Lopes was appointed, no yearly list of nominees existed beyond that originally compiled in 1972," there was an apparent violation of that part of Sec. 45-25-10 of the Rhode Island General Laws, 1956, as amended, which states:

"At all times three (3) of the commissioners shall be appointed from a list of nominees chosen yearly by the occupants of public housing in open elections, each housing project choosing three (3) nominees from its occupants."

It appears that this section of the General Laws as stated was not complied with; therefore, it is the opinion of this department that the term of Ms. Lopes expired on July 11, 1976, and that until further action is taken by the appropriate authorities, there will exist a vacancy on the Housing Authority of the City of Providence.

Very truly yours,

John Rotondi, Jr.
Deputy City Solicitor

/abt

cc: Joseph C. DiSanto, Chairman
John Cicilline, Esq.



Executive Chamber, City of Providence, Rhode Island

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.
MAYOR

Mrs. Charlotte E. Woods - Tenant Commissioner
672 Prairie Avenue
Providence Housing Authority
Apt. #613

- Presently Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee for MOCD
- Presently modernization chairman for Providence Housing Authority
- Former Chairman of the Education component of Model Cities
- Former President of Roger Williams Middle School PTA
- Founder and board member of the Roger Williams Day Care Center
- Resident Roger Williams Homes