

COUNCILMAN
ROBERT M. CLARKIN
74 HOPE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RI 02906
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COMMITTEES

Public Works
Chairman

Boards and Commissions

Providence Housing
Authority

Civic Center
Authority

City of Providence, Rhode Island

June 3, 2002

The Honorable John J. Lombardi
Council President
Providence City Council
25 Dorrance Street, Room 310
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear President Lombardi:

For nearly 40 years I have invested my heart and soul into the city of Providence. My involvement in the city was based on a simple, grass roots background: I became active in my Fox Point neighborhood, was first elected to the Ward 1 Democratic Club in 1964, was elected chairperson of the Ward 1 Democratic Committee in 1968, and have continued non-stop to promote the viability of the great city that I truly love.

Many of the programs, projects, and model-city efforts that I either coordinated, assisted in developing, or supported are programs which, even today, serve as models for other communities. In the late 1960s when I was elected as a member of "*Progress For Providence*" – which was the city of Providence's anti-poverty agency – there were numerous "roll-up-your-sleeves" projects that I successfully coordinated. So successful were some of these efforts that, in the following year, I was elected as the first chairperson of the Fox Point neighborhood anti-poverty program.

Knowing that the relationship between employment, housing and neighborhood pride is critical to the viability of any city, I have long been a crusader for housing ownership for city residents. As far back as 1972, I was already active in shepherding housing-development projects. In the early 1970s, I coordinated the development of four homes constructed on Brook Street – homes where the same working-class families continue to reside today.

In the area of promoting the health of our city residents, I was one of the original incorporators of the Providence Health Centers, and became the first chairperson of that organization. Soon, nine health centers were located throughout the city of Providence. I am proud of the fact that, even today, five of the original health centers continue to operate to serve the low-income residents of Providence.

In the early 1970s, along with Councilmen Murphy and Xavier, I worked tirelessly to relocate the Cohan scrap yard which, after successful discussions with Mrs. Sharpe, resulted in the development of an urban waterfront park – India Point Park. India Point Park is a model and a tribute to urban park development. Also in the 1970s, I actively assisted in the start-up of the Fox Point Community School – an after-school program for low-income youth and non-English-speaking youth. Programs were established at the school which served as models in promoting job-skill development, training for Portuguese-American neighbors in developing various business processes, as well as training and language skills classes for the various cultures and ethnicities that make Providence the great, multi-cultural city that it is.

The Honorable John J. Lombardi, Council President
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In the mid 1970s I actively fought for the creation of a badly needed credit union. Soon, the Fox Point Federal Credit Union was established, and I became the first president of the credit union. The credit union was sound, well received by the community, and it later merged with the East Providence Federal credit Union.

As a member of the Providence City Council, I have worked tirelessly in a common-sense manner to deliver the basic, well-deserved services that our community demands. Improvements to businesses in the Wayland Square area, and making the City a more business-friendly partner to the small businessperson, have been just a few of my proudest efforts. I always understood that small business was the backbone of our society, and in that light I always supported keeping the small businesses in the city.

As a member of the City Council, I came to understand the importance of clean streets, of effective policing and fire-risk prevention, and, most importantly, of the critical importance of parks and leisure activities to make Providence an attractive community. I have been a crusader in establishing and maintaining our park infrastructure. Various parks – e.g., Carolyn Brassil Park, Gano Street Park, and India Point Park – have received many improvements through my efforts. I have also worked to restore our historic past, promoting many projects to restore historic neighborhoods in a functional way – e.g., new lighting and lamps, the installation of cobble-stone pavers, the replacement of old sidewalks and the planting of new trees. Other projects I strongly supported include the Roger Williams Park *Botanical Center*, and the financial support to the *Black Repertory Theater*.

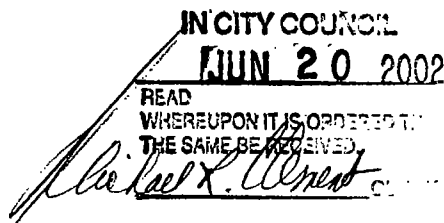
I have always cared for what's best for Providence, and I will always feel this way. Providence is a great, multi-cultural city with a great infrastructure, attractive architecture throughout the city, great universities, and a dedicated, committed Providence City Council.

I have, reluctantly, decided that my time on the Council shall come to an end. I want to allow others to participate and contribute fresh ideas. Consequently, it is with mixed emotions that I respectfully submit to you my resignation as a member of the Providence City Council. This resignation shall be effective on Monday, June 10, 2002.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Clarkin
Councilman Ward 1





**COUNCILMAN
ROBERT M. CLARKIN**

74 Hope Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

The Honorable John J. Lombardi
Council President
Providence City Council
25 Dorrance Street, Room 310
Providence, RI 02903

Michael R. Clement

City Clerk

Clerk of Council



Claire E. Bestwick
First Deputy

Anna M. Stetson
Second Deputy

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK
CITY HALL

June 10, 2002

Charles R. Mansolillo
City Solicitor
Law Department
275 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Mansolillo:

Subject: Councilman Robert M. Clarkin resignation.

I am hereby in receipt of a letter of resignation from Councilman Robert M. Clarkin, Ward I.

Therefore, I am requesting a legal opinion from you as to whether or not a special election should take place for City Council in Ward I, Fox Point Section of the City.

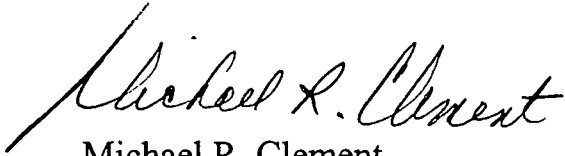
According to Section 206 of the Providence Home Rule Charter Entitled: Vacancies in Elective Offices, Sub Section b.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor or of a member of the city council more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the time of holding the next succeeding regular city election, the city council shall call a special election for the purpose of filling such vacancy for the remainder of such person's term, such special election to be held within ninety (90) days of the date of the occurrence of such vacancy. If any such vacancy occurs one hundred eighty (180) days or less before the time of holding the next succeeding regular city election, the city council shall call a special election said for said purpose, to be held within said period of ninety (90) days, on demand in writing signed by at least one-third of all the members of the city council, and filed with the board of canvassers and the city clerk at least one hundred (100) days prior to the time of holding the next

succeeding regular city election. In the event that any state election, regular or special, or any city election for any other purpose shall be held within said period of ninety (90) days, the city council may in its discretion order any special election required by the provisions of this section to be held at the same time as such other city or state election.

It is requested that you submit in writing whether or not a special election for the City Council in Ward I is mandatory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael R. Clement". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Michael R. Clement
City Clerk

MRC/dlh

cc: Council President John J. Lombardi