



CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 1955

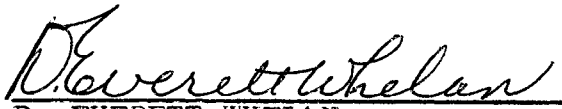
ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL

The Chair calls for nominations for President of the City Council and Mr. Prete nominates Angelo Aiello and this nomination is seconded by Messrs. Gray and Matera.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted that nominations be closed, and the Clerk be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Aiello as President of the City Council.

The Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Aiello as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares Angelo Aiello duly elected President of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1957.

  
D. EVERETT WHELAN,  
CITY CLERK.



D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL  
January 3, 1955

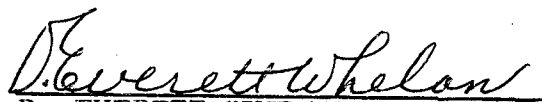
### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF CITY COUNCIL

The Chair calls for nominations for President Pro Tempore of the City Council and Mr. Boyle nominates William A. Gray and this nomination is seconded by Messrs. Powers and Quigley.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted that nominations be closed and the Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Gray as President Pro Tempore of the City Council.

The Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Gray as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares William A. Gray duly elected President Pro Tempore of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1957.

  
D. EVERETT WHELAN,  
CITY CLERK.



D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL  
January 3, 1955

## ELECTION OF CITY CLERK

The Chair calls for nominations for the Office of City Clerk and Mr. Gallogly nominates D. Everett Whelan as City Clerk and this nomination is seconded by Mr. Matera.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted that nominations be closed and First Deputy City Clerk, Vincent Vespia be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Whelan.

First Deputy City Clerk, Vincent Vespia casts one ballot for Mr. Whelan as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares D. Everett Whelan duly elected City Clerk for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1957.

D. EVERETT WHELAN,  
CITY CLERK.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, D. EVERETT WHELAN, 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*

City Clerk

*to the best of my ability.*

*D. Everett Whelan*

~

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

*do hereby certify that on the* 3rd *day of* January, *A. D. 19* 55,

*I did administer unto* D. Everett Whelan

*duly appointed to the office of*

City Clerk

*the above subscribed oath.*

*Walter H. Reynolds*



D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

January 3, 1955.

To the Honorable the City Council  
of the City of Providence.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section  
37, Chapter 832, of the Public Laws of 1940, I have  
this day appointed Vincent Vespia of Providence, as  
First Deputy City Clerk and William E. McWilliams  
of Providence, as Second Deputy City Clerk.

Respectfully

*D. Everett Whelan*  
D. Everett Whelan,  
City Clerk.

DEW:dkm

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JAN 3 - 1955

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*D. Everett Whelan*  
CLERK

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, VINCENT VESPIA, 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

First Deputy City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

Vincent Vespia

~

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 3rd day of January, A. D. 1955,

I did administer unto Vincent Vespia

duly appointed to the office of

First Deputy City Clerk.

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H Reynolds

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, WILLIAM E. McWILLIAMS, 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*

Second Deputy City Clerk

*to the best of my ability.*

*William E. McWilliams*

~

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

*do hereby certify that on the* 3rd *day of* January, *A. D. 19* 55,

*I did administer unto* William E. McWilliams

*duly appointed to the office of*

Second Deputy City Clerk

*the above subscribed oath.*

*Walter H Reynolds*

Thank you Mr. President.-----Right Reverend Monsignor Mahoney,  
Reverend Father Tully, Your Excellency, Dennis J. Roberts, Governor of the  
State of Rhode Island, honorable John Hartigan, Justice of the United States Court  
of Appeals, Honorable John Mullen, Judge of the Superior Court, Judge McCarthy,  
Other Distinguished Guests on the Dais, Gentlemen of the Council and Friends:----  
TO THE HONORABLE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE:

We meet here today to plan ahead for the next two years, and to organize  
ourselves to meet the problems and the challenges which will inevitably occur.

I view the forthcoming period as a most progressive two years.

We are experienced in government. We are dedicated to the idea and to the  
ideals of service to the citizens of this City.. The results of the election of November  
2nd demonstrated that we have the confidence of the people. All of these factors  
are assets to us, and will prove to be of great value in the two years immediately  
before us.

In this connection I wish to acknowledge the great part which preceding  
councils have played in establishing the excellent record and the honest reputation  
of municipal government in Providence. Their constant concern for the public  
well-being has been a strong source of encouragement to me.



I shall depend upon you Gentlemen -- new members as well as old -- for the same fine qualities of responsibility, resourcefulness and sound judgment.

A comprehensive survey of the tasks which now confront us shows the necessity for action on a wide variety of subjects, if the public welfare is to be promoted properly, and the interest of the citizens is to be served successfully. Indeed, so diverse are the problems which we face, and the obligations which we have undertaken, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to group them in meaningful categories.

It is my anticipation that Redevelopment will occupy an increasingly important share of our attention, and over the next two years, will demonstrate conclusively the value of the time and study devoted to it. The Willard Avenue Project is already well underway, and will provide a site for a new playfield and elementary school for South Providence, together with a new shopping center planned for that area. The Point Street Project should progress within the next few months as should also the West River Project, which is being hastened to provide sites to accommodate industries to be displaced by construction of the North-South Freeway.

I am particularly optimistic on the subject of industrial redevelopment, for I believe it affords our best opportunity for relocation of existing industry and for attraction of new industry. Both are needed to maintain high employment and to preserve the tax base.

Providence, as a metropolitan city, must recognize that as its primary function it serves as an industrial and commercial center and its best possibilities of growth lie in this direction. For this reason I am interested also in a Resolution recently sponsored by this Honorable Body, directing the City Plan Commission to study the question of re-zoning larger areas of the City for industrial purposes.

Thinking along these lines, it would be my idea at the present time to strengthen the cooperative ties between the City of Providence and the Rhode Island Development Council which is set up with paid and trained personnel for advertising and promotion of industrial location.

Important as is the business and industrial future of Providence - and you will note I have placed it first in this message -- I am also concerned with the preservation and enhancement of our City's substantial residential areas.

Within a comparatively short time two important measures directed toward improvement of housing conditions will be placed before you Gentlemen with a recommendation for your favorable consideration.

The first of these measures is the proposed Building Code which I shall request be re-submitted for the action of this Council. The Building Code is designed particularly to stimulate and encourage new construction through permitted use of new concepts, new methods and new materials. The flexibility of this code, together with the economies inherent in its application, can be of material benefit to industry, to business and the City as a whole. The second of these measures will be a Housing Code, presently being prepared by an outstanding committee of citizens, who have given unselfishly of their time over the past several months. Unlike the Building Code which is chiefly concerned with new construction or with alterations, the Housing Code will be concerned with residences already in existence. The purpose of the Housing Code will be to preserve good housing, to bring mediocre housing up to a reasonable and obtainable standard, and thereby to eliminate the spread of blight.

While submission of this code to your Honorable Body is still some months away, I call it to your attention now, in order that you may have the full picture of events to come in this important endeavor.

A new problem outside our usual experience also faces us this year. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that we are faced with an old problem of which we were forcibly reminded on August 31, 1954. Be that as it may, we are squarely confronted with the important question of hurricane protection or relief. The problem is complex, but one for which we must conscientiously seek a solution. Providence is perhaps more directly affected by hurricanes and by resultant tidal waves than is any community in Rhode Island. The most vulnerable portion of Providence is its high-value downtown district, which must receive every practicable protection. It is my intention to appoint for study of this problem a committee of interested businessmen, engineers, planners and others who will be encouraged to pursue this matter to a logical conclusion.

On the general subject of construction of capital projects, we have made considerable progress. With your cooperation it is my intention to continue the capital program as rapidly as is consistent with our debt structure.

Architectural plans for the new South Providence elementary school will be completed this spring. Architectural and engineering plans for the expanded sewage treatment plant, will be vigorously pressed and should be available by the close of the year. Architectural plans for the City's off-street parking garage are already prepared and I shall shortly be requesting your authority to condemn the necessary site.

Among the new bond issues approved by referendum on November 2nd were \$500,000 for renovation and modernization of elementary schools, \$500,000 for sewers, \$1,000,000 for highway reconstruction and \$2,000,000 for port development. I anticipate that, with your authorization, early action will be forthcoming on capital projects, using the sewer authority and the school renovation authority. With respect to the highway authority, it is, as you are aware, intended for the widening of Huntington Avenue as an extension of the Dennis J. Roberts Expressway. Timing of expenditures for this purpose will depend upon the availability of matching funds, and upon the actual programming of the project by the State of Rhode Island. Timing of expenditures authorized for development of the Port will likewise depend upon action by an agency outside the City of Providence.

This money is intended to develop facilities suitable for sea-land operation, involving truck trailers to be brought to and from Providence, and to be dispatched by highway to their eventual destinations. At the present time the progress of this venture rests with the Interstate Commerce Commission, which has concluded hearings and from which, as of the date this message is prepared, an early decision is expected. Also, the study of the Port of Providence commissioned by you Gentlemen, and undertaken by the Development Council and its consulting engineers, will be available soon to guide this Administration in sound future port development and management activities.

As to the subject of general administrative organization, I recommend no major changes other than those which will eventually be required to instrument the Building and Housing Codes previously referred to. As an executive measure I have undertaken to relocate physically certain city departments, for the dual purposes of accommodating demands for greater space, and improving the quality of service to the public. You are familiar with the major relocations now being carried out, and including the Department of Health, the Department of Building Inspection and the License Commission.

Remaining on the subject of administration generally, I would direct your attention for a moment to the problem of municipal reporting. It is my conviction that we are at the present time making insufficient efforts to acquaint the citizens of this city with the functions of municipal government, and with the many fine services available to the citizen. At a subsequent meeting of this Council I shall place before you an ordinance, increasing the appropriation for public reporting, with a recommendation for passage in order that we may better serve the citizens of Providence.

I will move now to the general financial outlook for the next two years. I have previously discussed capital improvements, and proposed a program, which I believe to be well within our capacity to carry without excessive indebtedness. The single exception to this may be the indebtedness for hurricane rehabilitation, likely to total approximately a million dollars. As presently constituted this authority requires payment over a three-year period. Should this short time schedule appear to create an undue burden, I shall subsequently request your consent and authorization for the City Solicitor to appear before the General Assembly, for the purpose of seeking an extension of the period over which this loan may be repaid.

On the operating side, so far as can now be determined, I foresee no new and unusual demands upon our resources. Special attention has been given during the past two years to the requirements of city employees, who in many cases were inadequately compensated for their abilities and training, and for their loyal devotion to their many duties and responsibilities. With the position reclassification and the salary adjustments now completed, with the shorter work week for police and fire, salaries and wages of city employees would appear to be stabilized, with the possible exception of school teachers, for whom the State of Rhode Island has indicated its intention of proposing an increased salary grant.

The action of the recent Congress in extending Social Security coverage to municipal employees will, however, require some amendments to our pension system in order to bring to employees the benefits of this coverage without diminishing current rights in our present system. At my request the actuary for the City of Providence has had this matter under study since early summer, and it is my hope to be in a position very soon to inform you of a detailed plan, combining Social Security with our present pension set-up, a plan which will afford added protection to employees, and to their dependents at a modest cost to the City of Providence.



I realize full well, as do you gentlemen also, that budgets these next two years will -- of necessity -- need to reflect the narrowing gap between revenue and expenditures. We can foresee in the near future the disappearance of previous, comfortable end-of-the-year surpluses. This trend is already evident in the budget for the current year, which as you will recall, required an appropriation of nearly one-half million dollars of surplus in order to bring revenue into balance with expenditures.

Nevertheless, I believe I can say with a fair degree of assurance, that we shall be able to conduct the government without an increase in the real or personal property tax rate. Whether or not a moderate revaluation of property will later be required, I am not in a position to determine immediately. In any case, we shall need to exercise prudence and thrift. We shall need also the advantage of all the revenues to which we are property entitled. On this score I have specifically in mind renewed and more forceful efforts directed toward collection of back taxes, particularly the personal property tax on automobiles.

I have in mind further, the fact that our licensing system is in many cases outmoded, in that too frequently, the fees charged are insufficient to pay the cost of license administration. I will seek your consent in the near future for a study of our present licensing system with a view toward revision of that system on a modern basis.

In summing up, I believe I have presented to you the varied highlights of a program for the next two years. I hope that you will agree with me that it is, in the main, a conservative program, and at the same time, a constructive program. It can be carried out only with a constant sense of our deep responsibility, a continued awareness and sensitivity to the needs and desires of our fellow citizens, and the guidance and blessing of Almighty God, for which we humbly pray.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 3 - 1955

READ: By Mayor Reynolds  
D. Everett Whelan  
CLERK