

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 503

EFFECTIVE November 27, 2017

WHEREAS, The Board of Licenses and the Licensing Office are vital arms of City government that play an important role in both encouraging economic growth and promoting public safety; and

WHEREAS, Having well-crafted policies and procedures that reflect best practices is key to promoting good public policy and smooth operations for all government agencies and departments; and

WHEREAS, As part of the Council's continued efforts to improve the operations of the Board of Licenses and the Licensing Office, in 2016, the City Council engaged former Rhode Island Attorney General Jeffrey Pine to conduct a thorough review of their operations, including reviewing the Board's policies and procedures and making recommendations for improvements; and

WHEREAS, Among the many important findings of the Pine Report was that the Board's Operations and Procedures manual was in need of "several significant changes" and recommended changes relative to consistent discipline, rules of evidence, recordkeeping, and Open Meetings Act compliance; and

WHEREAS, Despite the clear recommendations of the Pine Report and repeated requests by City Councilors for the Board of Licenses to work with the Council on updates to the Operations and Procedures Manual, the performance review conducted by BlumShapiro Consulting released earlier this year found that the Board is still using a manual that has not been updated since 2011; and

WHEREAS, On November 9th, 2017, the Board of Licenses voted to approve a new Operations and Procedures Manual, however, as the previous manual was is not on the City website and the no copy was provided in the public posting announcing the vote to amend it, members of the public were unable to compare the two documents and understand the changes being proposed; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, as the City Council was not given any opportunity to weigh in or comment on the proposed new policies and procedures before they were adopted by the Board of Licenses; and

WHEREAS, As the circumstances of the vote to approve the new policies and procedures left members of the public unable to learn of the proposed changes or comment on their potential effects unless they were physically present for the vote, it is both appropriate and necessary for ensuring the public's trust that the new Operations and Procedures Manual be reviewed and vetted by the City Council in an open meeting; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council has an obligation to ensure the proper management and operations of the all City agencies and departments, including the Board of Licenses and Licensing Office, and to promote open and transparent governance for the people of Providence.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that the newly adopted Board of Licenses Operations and Procedure be submitted to the Special Committee on Municipal Operations and Oversight for public review and Council vetting.

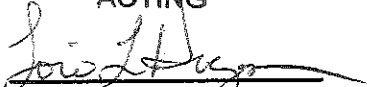
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Chairman of the Board of Licenses, and the License Administrator.

IN CITY COUNCIL

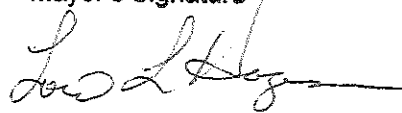
NOV 16 2017

READ AND PASSED


ACTING PRES.


CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature



Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk