

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

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No.*

*Approved*

IN COUNCIL

RECEIVED

CITY CLERK

WHEREAS, Being a life-long Democrat in the City of Providence, and a third term elected official of the Providence City Council, I was both surprised and disappointed that the critically important agenda presented at the Democratic Caucus on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 955 Atwells Avenue was first announced at the time of the meeting – which is to say, without benefit of advance notice of any description; and

WHEREAS, It was the President of the Providence City Council who scheduled and chaired the caucus, and who also set its agenda; and

WHEREAS, Several items on the agenda that we discussed were inappropriate for the caucus forum, insofar as they were inconsistent with the precedents and controlling tenets of caucus conduct; and

WHEREAS, As part of my commitment to work within established channels of communication and otherwise to respect established protocols, I sent a letter to the President of the Providence City Council in which I outlined my concerns relative to the appropriateness of discussions of the caucus, and asked that any future caucus invitations be accompanied by a preset agenda; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Providence City Council in fact attempted to schedule and hold another Democratic Caucus on Monday, February 13, 2006, and in so doing ignored my request to attach an agenda with the invitation. Hence, I was forced to choose to boycott that caucus (which in fact was cancelled by the President) for fear of again being placed in a compromised situation; and

WHEREAS, I was offended that the President of the Providence City Council, by his decision to refrain from in-advance publishing of the Democratic Caucus agenda, would place the membership, collectively and individually, in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, As an active member of the Democratic Party, I resent strongly that the views, concerns, and reasonable accommodation expressed in my letter were ignored by the President of the Providence City Council, and as a consequence I was forced to boycott the Democratic Caucus and essentially disenfranchise myself and my constituency, and in so doing violate one of the deepest held principles of the Democratic Party; and

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 2 2006  
READ AND DENIED  
Ann M. Stein CLERK

Councilman Allen

WHEREAS, A new, 21<sup>st</sup> century paradigm for transparency and ethics in government requires all governmental bodies – and especially those comprised of elected officials – not only to meet, but to exceed voluntarily statutory requirements for open meeting procedures and other ethics-related activities; and

WHEREAS, The membership of the Providence City Council serves at the pleasure of an electorate that has made plain its insistence upon open, honest government and the highest ethical standards for its elected and appointed representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Democratic Party of this Providence City Council, in the effort to insure appropriateness and governmental transparency, require that any and all caucus matters appear on an agenda to be published at least 48 hours in advance of the actual convening of the caucus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of the Democratic Party of this Providence City Council commit themselves, individually and as a body, to exceeding the letter and spirit of all ethics legislations, and otherwise adopting the highest standards of conduct for the entire Providence City Council.