

City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 379

EFFECTIVE October 17, 2016

WHEREAS, In the 2016 legislative session, the Rhode Island General Assembly enacted Rhode Island General Laws 31-15-12.2, "Don't Block the Box"; and

WHEREAS, This legislation allows the cities and towns of Rhode Island to designate certain intersections as "Don't Block the Box" intersections by ordinance to ensure the safe and free flow of traffic without obstruction; and

WHEREAS, Such intersections will be marked clearly with both white paint and "Don't Block the Box" signs designed by the State Traffic Commission; and

WHEREAS, In order to designate a State intersection located within a municipality as a "Don't Block the Box" intersection, the city or town must petition the State Traffic Commission for permission; and

WHEREAS, Effective January 1st, 2017, cities and towns will be allowed to fine motorists who "block the box" between \$100 and \$500, creating a strong deterrent to unsafe driving; and

WHEREAS, The act of "blocking the box," or obstructing an intersection, can have an outsized effect on traffic and safety in the surrounding area by causing back-ups and traffic jams at nearby intersections; and

WHEREAS, Such back-ups often leave motorists in unsafe positions in the middle of intersections and force pedestrians to weave in between vehicles on top of crosswalks or otherwise obstructing their ability to safely cross the street; and

WHEREAS, As the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the Providence City Council has an obligation to promote safety and ensure the free flow of traffic on city streets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that the Department of Public Works conduct a study to determine which intersections would be most appropriate for the City to designate as "Don't Block the Box" intersections in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws 31-15-12.2, including but not limited to any intersections that would require the permission of the State Traffic Commission to be designated.

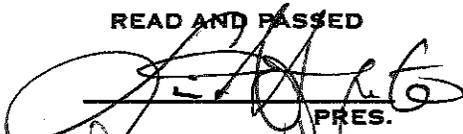
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the report be completed and transmitted to the City Council no later than December 1st, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of Public Works, and the Traffic Engineer.

IN CITY COUNCIL

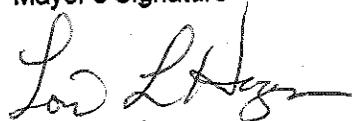
OCT 06 2016

READ AND PASSED


PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the Mayor's Signature


**Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk**