

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 429

Approved July 18, 1994

WHEREAS, One Hundred Thousand (100,000) people in Rhode Island and over 15 Million (15,000,000) people across the U.S. suffer from unemployment and underemployment--double the "official" governmental figures which do not count the long-term unemployed, youth, and those receiving public assistance who want to work, and

WHEREAS, Over 45,000 manufacturing jobs have been eliminated in Rhode Island since 1984 and over 5 Million jobs have been eliminated by Fortune 500 Corporations and other businesses in the past 15 years, and

WHEREAS, Most private-sector job creation has been low-wage and/or temporary or part-time employment, with few if any benefits and no job security, and

WHEREAS, The minimum wage has lost one quarter of its value since 1969 and one in five full-time workers earn wages that put their families below the poverty line, including close to 50,000 Rhode Islanders, with fully one half of all young workers earning poverty level wages for a National total of 37 Million people living in poverty--the highest level since 1962, and

WHEREAS, Nationally, only 32% of jobless workers are getting regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits and those who received benefits received, on average, only 37% of their previous weekly wages, and

WHEREAS, Unemployment is running at twice the overall rate for people of color and three times the overall rate for youth, and

WHEREAS, Chronic, widespread joblessness and low wages are the main underlying causes of poverty, homelessness, street crime, substance abuse, spousal and child abuse and social decay in general,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby calls upon Congress and the President of the United States of America to take the following action to deal with the above mentioned crises:

1. Enact a **massive public jobs program** offering employment to all who seek work rebuilding our Inner Cities and National Infrastructure and in providing needed Social Services.
2. **Double the Minimum Wage** so that no worker will live in poverty.
3. **Extend Unemployment Benefits** indefinitely to all jobless at a livable level until there is work for them.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUL 7 1994
READ AND PASSED

James H. Quinn
PRES.
Michael R. Clement
CLERK

APPROVED
JUL 18 1994
Vincent A. Cianci
MAYOR

*Council President Petrucci; Councilors Clark, De Luca, Bellini,
Cassidino, De Leo, De Leo, De Leo; Councilors Davis, Flynn, Lombardi,
Cassidino, De Leo, Councilors Miller,
Councilors Young and Councilors Noto (By request)*