

City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 401

Approved August 8, 2014

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council has supported the underground alignment of the power lines at India Point Park through numerous resolutions over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, The power lines burial project has broad community support from representatives of civic organizations, businesses, labor unions, and universities, as well as elected officials, all of whom recognize the beneficial economic and environmental impacts the project will achieve; and

WHEREAS, An online petition sponsored by Friends of India Point Park has been signed by more than 1,850 people, urging officials to ensure the project moves forward; and

WHEREAS, the power lines burial project will enhance the Providence waterfront, including India Point Park, and will complement the development potential of the I-195 parcels, which are a cornerstone to increasing the city's tax base and bolstering its economic future; and

WHEREAS, Burying the power lines at the head of Narragansett Bay will protect them from outages resulting from storm surges, which build in intensity as they progress up the Bay, particularly in an era of rising sea levels and more severe flooding; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the funding—over \$17.2 million—has been secured through federal and state agencies and ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, Further delays in initiating the project will threaten the viability of the burial of the transmission lines, as costs will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, The Energy Facility Siting Board has required regular updates from National Grid on progress relating to the project, and completion of their updated cost estimate and feasibility studies by September 30th of this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby reiterate its support for the burial of the E-183, known as the high-power transmission line, from the west side of the Providence River, across India Point Park, to East Providence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council urges the Energy Facility Siting Board and the Public Utilities Commission, along with other state agencies, to take necessary steps to ensure the project progresses, and that a timeline for beginning construction is developed as soon as possible.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, a copy of this resolution be delivered to Energy Facility Siting Board and the Public Utilities Commission.

IN CITY COUNCIL

AUG 07 2014

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK
ACTING

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 8/8/14