



Mayor of Providence

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.

August 9, 2000

The Honorable Michael R. Clement
City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Pursuant to Sections 302(f) and 412 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, I do hereby disapprove and veto the following separate items: (1) Section 6, in its entirety, of An Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 1999-22, Approved August 5, 1999, of the Ordinances of the City of Providence Making an Appropriation of Four Hundred Forty Seven Million, Three Hundred Thirty Five Thousand, Three Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$447,335,396) for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2001, As Amended; (2) and Sections 5 and 6, in their entirety, of An Ordinance Establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1999-23 Approved August 5th, 1999 As Amended.

Generally I support the budget ordinances passed by the City Council, since they contain all of the major provisions that I recommended in the budget I submitted last May. I commend the City Council for your earnest deliberations regarding the city budget. However, I am vetoing the indicated separate items because they impose unnecessary and overly restrictive limitations on the executive authority.

Section 6 of the Compensation Ordinance says, in part, that "all employees or officers must be hired at the first step of the annual salary range unless prior approval is obtained from the Providence City Council." This is overly restrictive, because the person being hired may have experience and qualifications that justify a higher salary than the first step. The executive branch, which is responsible for operating city government, should not have its hands tied by the legislative branch.

I am vetoing Section 5 of the Compensation Ordinance because it is substantially the same as Section 4 of the same ordinance.

Section 6 of the Appropriations Ordinance says, in part, that "the funding for any position that becomes vacant during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 for any reason

shall only be used to offset 'breakage' until such time breakage is zero (0)." Elsewhere, the budget fixes the breakage amount at \$150,000. Once again, the executive branch must be free to fill funded positions -- at any time -- in order to operate the government effectively.

Given my responsibility as the Chief Executive to manage city government, it is necessary for my administration to meet the demand for personnel should a needed position become vacant during the course of the fiscal year. The imposed restriction in this section might cause unnecessary delay in filling a vital position.

I respect the objective of the City Council to exercise fiscal restraint. I share this objective. Since taking office in January 1991, my administration has achieved budget surpluses in ten straight fiscal years. Between fiscal 1991 and 1999, the tax levy in Providence rose by only 28%, while the levy for all Rhode Island communities rose by 40%. In Warwick, over the same period, the tax levy rose by 37%, and in Cranston it rose by 45%. I can assure the City Council that I will continue to exercise fiscal restraint in 2001.

The budget that the Mayor and City Council have jointly prepared is generally a good spending plan for the city. However, I feel compelled to exercise the veto regarding the specified items in order to ensure the orderly operation of city government.

Sincerely,



VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL

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READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.



CLERK

AUG 3 2000

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK
RECEIVED
4:15 P.M.
! AUG 9 2000 !
Michael R. Christ
CITY CLERK OF PROVIDENCE, RI

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