

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

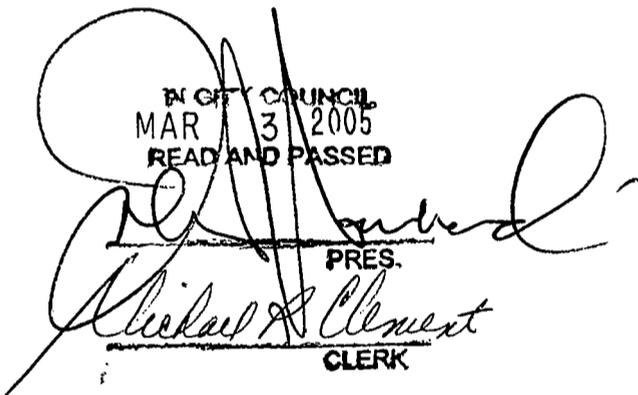
# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 97

Approved March 11, 2005

RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council hereby Congratulate Richard Weinberg, Webmaster for the City of Providence in conjunction with the Secretary of State's Office on the implementation of all City Notices being posted on-line enabling data sharing on two levels; government to citizen and government to government and being one of the first states in the Country offering this service to it's citizens.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 3 2005  
READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.  
Michael A. Clement  
CLERK

APPROVED

  
MAYOR 3/11/05



Council President John J. Lombardi

Resolution

Couple of days before going live, maybe next week.

March 3 docket

**"Resolution Congratulating Richard Weinberg, Webmaster for the City of Providence in conjunction with the Secretary of State's Office on the implementation of all City Notices being posted on-line enabling data sharing on two levels; government to citizen and government to government and being one of the first states in the Country offering this service to it's citizens."**



## Matt Brown Web site adds features

**The secretary of state's announcement comes at a time when a long-promised online "Town Crier" addition is months behind schedule.**

09:15 AM EST on Wednesday, February 23, 2005

**BY LIZ ANDERSON**  
Journal State House Bureau

PROVIDENCE -- Secretary of State Matt Brown is promoting the start of a new "data-sharing initiative" that will allow more sophisticated Internet users to track new information added to his Web site and other government locations.

His announcement comes at the same time as another long-touted venture, a promise to create an "Electronic Town Crier" to collect and publicize municipal meeting notices, is finally nearing its debut, months behind schedule.

The new effort from Brown's office is dubbed "RSSonate" (pronounced "resonate"). It is a play on words on an Internet-wide system known as RSS, short for "Really Simple Syndication," that some Web users customize to collect information on everything from news services to online "blog" journals, as they are updated.

Brown spokesman Paul Tencher said staffers in the secretary of state's office have created programming that will allow government information to be distributed in the same manner.

The RSS information-feed program they created is already in use by both Providence and Middletown, meaning computer users can follow links off those municipal Web sites to request updates when, for example, a new local meeting is posted, he said.

Ultimately, Tencher said, the system will also allow users to track changes to databases on Brown's own Web site, such as new business incorporations or registered lobbyists, and to customize what information they receive.

The first piece of that will go hand in hand with the long-promised town meetings database, now scheduled to debut late tomorrow, Tencher said.

In 2003, his first year in office, Brown successfully worked to pass legislation requiring cities and towns to begin sending all local meeting notices, agendas and minutes to his office over the computer. The initiative, Brown said, would enable him to set up a centralized meeting list on the Internet, and let computer users sign up to be notified by e-mail whenever certain types of meetings were posted.

Cities and towns had to begin complying with the legislation last July. At the time, Brown promised his town crier system would be up and running by early fall. More recently, his Web site promised a January rollout.

Tencher said the project was delayed because staff had to turn their focus to implementing new lobbying laws passed in the last legislative session, including creating an online lobbyist-registration system.

While the information that cities and towns have been sending in was not posted online, Brown's staff used it to answer any related e-mail inquiries in the interim, he said.

Other databases on Brown's site, such as the list of registered lobbyists or incorporated businesses, will also be trackable through the RSS system by the end of 2005, Tencher said.

While the online lobbyist-registration system was up and running at the start of the year, it was not until early February, roughly five weeks after lawmakers reconvened, that the current-year database was posted on his Web site for easy public access.

Journal reporters quickly noticed that some lobbyists they had spotted at the State House -- such as those representing gambling giant Harrah's and its casino plans -- were not yet listed.

Tencher's explanation is that lobbyists are not placed into the online database until they have completed the registration process by both paying the \$5 fee and picking up their identification badge.

Monthly lobbyist spending reports will also be online, Tencher said, starting next month; the first reports are due March 15.

Tencher could not say yesterday when another feature of Brown's Web site would be ready for the current legislative cycle: a function called "BillTracker" that lets a user create a list of bills, then follow their progress by returning to a customized report on Brown's Web site.

Right now, users who go to "BillTracker" find only the previous year's sessions available. Tencher said Brown's staff is working with the legislature to get the tracking system up and running for 2005 "as fast as possible."

Brown, a Democrat, recently announced he would be a candidate in the 2006 election for the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Lincoln Chafee.

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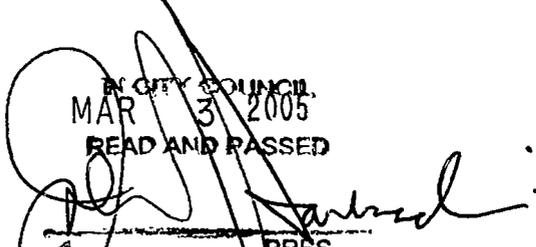
Online at: [http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo\\_20050223\\_brown23.25d55b9.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo_20050223_brown23.25d55b9.html)

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 98

*Approved* March 11, 2005

RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council  
hereby Extend Sincere Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday to Councilman Miguel  
C. Luna on March 2, 2005.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 31 2005  
READ AND PASSED  
  
PRES.  
Michael R. Clement  
CLERK

APPROVED  
  
3/11/05  
MAYOR

Council President Tomhardt; Councilman Allen. Don't. Butler, Redline,  
Councilman Alby; Councilman Hallett; Ogilby; Jackson; Manning;  
Councilman Donald; Councilman Segal; Councilman Williams & Young).

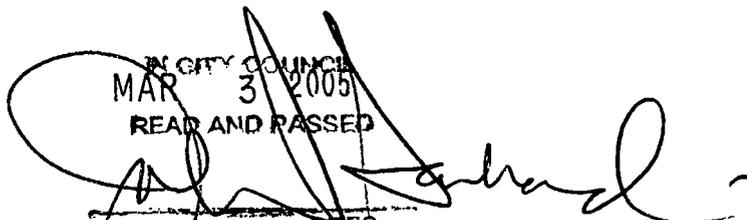
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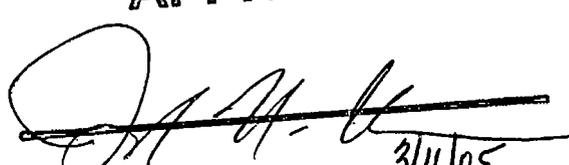
# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 99

*Approved* March 11, 2005

RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council hereby Extend Sincere Best Wishes to Richard Jackson for a complete and speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

  
CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 3 2005  
READ AND PASSED  
PRES.  
Michael A. Clement  
CLERK

APPROVED  
  
MAYOR 3/11/05

Council President Tom Joseph; Councilmen Allen, Sparto, Butler, DeStefano,  
Councilwoman DiBiase; Councilwoman Letts; Deputy; Jackson, Luna, Mancini,  
Minn, and Mayor Thomas; Councilman Segal; Councilwoman Williams and Young.

**Claire Bestwick**

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**From:** Thomas Glavin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2005 11:43 AM  
**To:** Claire Bestwick  
**Subject:** Get Well Resolutions

Hi Claire,

Council President Lombardi would like to have Resolutions from the entire City Council extending get well wishes and urging a speedy recovery to:

Richard Jackson (Councilman Jackson's brother) and  
RI First Lady Suzanne Carcieri  
Thanks,  
Tom

Thomas M. Glavin  
Interim Administrative Coordinator  
City Council Office  
Providence, RI 02903