

**City of Providence**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 64*

EFFECTIVE February 16, 2016

RESOLVED, That the following Minute of the life and character of the late Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Mayor of the City of Providence from January 7, 1975 to April 25, 1984 and January 7, 1991 to September 6, 2002, is hereby adopted, ordered, and inscribed on the records of the City Council and a duly certified copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

## MINUTE

Vincent A. "Buddy" Cianci, Jr., was born on April 30, 1941 to Vincent A. Cianci, Sr., and Esther (Capobianco) Cianci in Cranston, Rhode Island.

After graduating from the Moses Brown School in Providence, Cianci earned a bachelor's degree in government from Fairfield University, a master's degree in political science from Villanova University, and a law degree from Marquette University School of Law.

On November 29, 1966, Cianci enlisted in the United States Army, and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps in 1967. He served on active duty until 1969, and then in the United States Army Reserve as a civil affairs officer until 1972.

In 1969, Cianci became a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island and, in 1973, he became the prosecutor for the Rhode Island Attorney General's Anti-Corruption Strike Force.

In November of 1974, at the age of 33, Cianci was elected Mayor of the City of Providence, defeating incumbent Mayor Joseph Doorley to become the youngest person ever elected mayor, the first Italian-American mayor, and the first Republican mayor in more than three decades.

An incredibly charismatic figure, as mayor, Cianci's wide smile was a regular sight at events and large gatherings. Moreover, his legendary wit quickly endeared him to the people of Providence, helping him win re-election in 1978 and 1982, as well as the Republican nomination for Governor in 1980.

After resigning from office in 1984, Cianci became a popular and successful local radio show host, but chose to re-enter politics in 1990. Running as an independent candidate, he defeated both Democratic and Republican candidates in November of 1990 and was, once again, sworn in as Mayor of the City of Providence on January 7, 1991.

During Cianci's second tenure as mayor, Providence experienced a period of renewal. Cianci tirelessly promoted his city and encouraged major revitalization efforts, such as the River Relocation Project, the Capital Center Project, the construction of Waterplace Park, the Rhode Island Convention Center, and the Providence Place Mall, and the creation of WaterFire, all of which helped Providence earn the nickname, "the Renaissance City." He was re-elected in both 1994 and 1998.

In September 2002, Cianci resigned as mayor amid a federal investigation. In 2007, he returned to public life as a radio talk show host and television political commentator. In 2014, he once again ran for mayor as an independent candidate. Despite receiving a majority of the vote in eight out of the city's fifteen wards and 45% overall, Cianci lost the three-way election. It was his first defeat in a mayoral election and only the second electoral defeat of his political career.

Throughout his life, Cianci was honored many times for his work on behalf of the people of Providence. He received the Robert "Cy" Killian Humanitarian Award from Big Brothers of Rhode Island, the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, the "Safety in the City" award from the Women's Center of Rhode Island, and the Genesis Center Award for service to Providence's refugee and immigrant population. Additionally, he received the West End Community Center Award, the Providence Recreation Department Leadership Award, and the Elmwood Foundation Revitalization Award. In 1996, he was granted the title of Grand Ufficiale in the Order Al Merito della Repubblica Italiana by Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and, in 1998, he received the prestigious Saint Joseph's Day Merit Award from the Piave Lodge (#364) of the Order of the Sons of Italy in America.

Cianci was the recipient of numerous honorary degrees, including an honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Fairfield University, an honorary Doctorate of Business Administration from Johnson & Wales University, an honorary Doctorate of Law from Roger Williams University, and an honorary Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the New England School of Law.

A devoted father and grandfather, Cianci dedicated much of his final years to raising and supporting his three grandchildren, Olivia, Joseph and Julius, after the tragic and premature death of his beloved daughter, Nicole.

With his passing on January 28, 2016, Vincent A. "Buddy" Cianci will be missed and mourned by countless friends, family, and associates to whom he bequeathed a wealth of fond and wonderful memories. May God, in His Wisdom, bestow upon Vincent A. Cianci, Eternal Rest and, to his family and loved ones, peace and tranquility.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**FEB 04 2016**

**READ AND PASSED**

**PRES.**

**CLERK**

**Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature**



**Lori L. Hagen  
City Clerk**