



CITY OF PROVIDENCE
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

WALTER H. REYNOLDS
MAYOR

July 25, 1956

To The Honorable The City Council
of the City of Providence

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5,
Chapter 2255 of the Public Laws of 1935, I have this day appointed
Reverend Paul C. Perrotta, O. P. of Providence as a Commissioner
of the Housing Authority, for the ensuing five year term ending on
July 11, 1961.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter H. Reynolds
Walter H. Reynolds
Mayor of Providence

WHR:vmb

IN CITY COUNCIL
AUG 2 - 1956

READ:
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

N. Berrett Whelan
CLERK

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, REVEREND PAUL C. PERROTTA, O. P., do
solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge
the duties of the office of

Commissioner of the Housing Authority

to the best of my ability.

Paul C Perrotta

or

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 18th day of September, A. D. 19 56,

I did administer unto REVEREND PAUL C. PERROTTA, O. P.

duly appointed to the office of

Commissioner of the Housing Authority

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H Reynolds

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

WALTER H. REYNOLDS
MAYOR

July 25, 1956

To The Honorable The City Council
of the City of Providence

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 37 and 38 of Chapter 1802 of the Public Laws of 1946, I have this day appointed Mr. Timothy A. Purcell of Providence a member of the Redevelopment Agency, for the ensuing five year term ending on July 31, 1961.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter H. Reynolds
Mayor of Providence

WHR:vmb

IN CITY COUNCIL
AUG 2 - 1956

REC'D:
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THIS SAME BE RECEIVED.

CLERK

To The Honorable The City Council of the City of Providence:

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Section 108 of the Charter of the City of Providence I am presenting herewith a budget for the fiscal year 1956-1957.

Anticipated revenues total \$33,551,912. Proposed expenditures amount to \$33,514,967. The net budget surplus on this basis amounts to \$36,944 or some \$3,200 in excess of that estimated for the current year. Estimates of revenue receipts show an anticipated net increase of \$1,685,612 and estimates of revenue expenditures show increased expenditures amounting to \$1,682,368.

Examination of the principal revenue items will show that among the several categories of revenue the largest single increase is in property taxes estimated to yield for the forthcoming year \$23,123,259 or an increase of \$1,700,702. With maintenance of the \$33.00 per thousand real and tangible personal property tax rate permitted by authorization of the Director of Administration of the State of Rhode Island for a second successive year, the increase to be noted results from several factors, among which is the revaluation of land which added more than \$29,000,000 in assessed valuations to the tax rolls. This increase in valuation, allowing for uncollectibles, is expected to add approximately \$930,000 in revenue.

The auto tax bill initiated and sponsored by the City of Providence, and which was passed by the recent legislature is expected to net this city for the budget year some \$231,000. Back taxes to be collected in the budget year, and which are included in the total estimate of property tax revenue, have been increased another \$230,000 as a result of greater collectibility originating from the auto tax bill.

It is worth observing, relative to assessed valuations, that despite current losses due to freeway construction and other causes, normal increases, namely, new building, conversions and the like, added nearly \$3,500,000 in valuations to the tax rolls. Tangible personal property, mostly motor vehicles, increased some \$2,500,000, and intangibles subject to the \$4.00 rate, increased nearly \$28,000,000 in valuation.

In a pleasant reversal of a trend observed in this message in recent years, state-shared taxes are expected to increase by \$41,000. This results, of course, from the increase in valuation in this City as it affects the formula for distribution of horse race receipts based upon the individual community's valuations relative to total valuations in the State.

Other categories of revenue expected to increase include Fines, Forfeits and Escheats, anticipated to increase by \$30,000 reflecting the increased schedule of fines for motor vehicle violations. Grants-in-Aid from the State of Rhode Island are expected to be up \$141,000. Of this amount \$35,000 represents an increase in the amount received for general city purposes, increased this year because of this city's increased tax levy, the formula for distribution of these funds being based upon the tax levy in the community relative to the total levy in all of the States' towns and cities, various grants for specific school purposes are up \$38,000 and aid to General Public Assistance is up \$68,000, resulting from a higher level of expenditure anticipated for that purpose. Lesser amounts of increase are expected from Rents and Interest, and Revenue to General Departments. Small decreases are anticipated in Special Assessments and Business and Non-Business Licenses. With regard to this latter item, recommendations for certain license fee adjustments are, as you gentlemen know, currently under study by the Finance and Ordinance Committees of this Council. Certain of these recommendations, some of which will require legislation from the General Assembly, if when examined thoroughly, are considered practicable and favorable, could result in substantial increases in license receipts.

It will be noted that, unlike the budget presented a year ago, the budget proposed for fiscal 1956-1957 does not include as a revenue any appropriation from the Reserve for Extraordinary Expenditure. The reason for this is very simple - the amount anticipated as available for the reserve is expected to be only sufficient for the usual contingencies encountered during the course of the budget year. In this respect the dwindling of "surplus" funds predicted in previous messages has become a practical reality.

Having examined the revenue picture generally, let us now turn to the forecast of expenditures. Fixed charges, namely, those payments to which we are obligated by virtue of past commitments, total \$14,108,884 including debt service at \$3,710,806; pensions at \$1,619,147 and Education at \$8,778,931. The total of these figures is up \$371,743 over the current year. Of this increase \$223,857 or approximately sixty percent represents an increase cost of education due to operation of the Revised Strayer Act and the requirements of matching funds for the new state grant-in-aid initiated last year. Debt service is up \$104,757, mainly from retirement of bonded debt resulting from the hurricane of 1954, a million dollars of which is currently being retired at \$100,000 annually.

Pensions are up a net \$43,129, compensating decreases in the so-called "old" police and fire pension system having to some degree off-set an increased cost of \$77,000, due to changes during the past year in the pension act providing that retiring personnel may compute benefits based on highest five, rather than on highest ten years of salary, and providing that beneficiaries receive the balance of annuity funds due the deceased employee at the time of his death.

In addition to fixed charges as enumerated, increases in other major categories of expenditure have been inevitable and are accepted as such in this budget. The largest increases occur in Public Safety, Health Activities, Welfare Activities, Recreation Activities and in Miscellaneous Activities.

Public Safety is expected to cost \$221,556 in excess of the amount recommended last year. Of this increase \$98,000 is recommended for the Police Department, \$110,000 for the Fire Department and some \$16,000 for the Traffic Department. Police Department costs include provision for equipment and increased personnel costs, including addition of fifteen men to the force. Increased fire costs include purchase of a third rescue wagon and other equipment, plus increased personnel costs including the addition of five lieutenants and ten privates. Traffic Department increases include provisions for additional paint and for new equipment.

The increase in Health Activities of \$132,511 is ascribable primarily to the Chapin Hospital where increased personnel costs, building repairs, and equipment will add \$182,000. The net increase, however, is reduced by \$50,000 through transfer of that amount from the Health category to Grants to Outside Agencies. This amount is that appropriated for payment of services by District Nurses and previously included in this category.

Welfare Activities are increased by \$113,000, not from any pessimism as to the future, but rather to meet normal increases already experienced in the cost of caring for welfare recipients.

Recreation Activities are increased \$446,877 of which approximately three-fourths is in capital funds. It has been necessary, however, because of the addition of new playgrounds including Davis Park Playfield, Merino Park and others to add some \$58,000 to the Recreation Department in addition to an increased capital allowance for playground acquisition and improvement. Also, \$12,000 has been added to Parks General for personnel and equipment and \$27,000 to the Roger Williams Park Account which proved insufficient during the current year.

Included in Miscellaneous Activities are two new items consisting of \$135,000 for the purpose of providing employees with paid Blue Cross and Physicians Service insurance, and \$41,000 set up to establish a Division of Housing to administer the Minimum Housing Code recently established by this Honorable Body. Other and smaller increases necessary, bring the increase in this category over last year to a total of \$200,000.

Certain items in Public Works are recommended for increased appropriation, including \$64,000 more for snow removal, a principal reason therefor being the assumption by the City last year of the full burden of snow removal and sanding, a large portion of which in prior years was the responsibility of the U. T. C. The net increase this year, however, amounts to but \$13,000, the increases being balanced off by various decreases from last year, of which the principal amount is the decrease of \$75,000 from the \$150,000 recommended for dock repairs last year.

Capital budget items included in this presentation total \$497,000 an increase of \$264,000 over that recommended last year. Items recommended include: in the City Sergeant's Department, new elevators for the City Hall Annex \$22,000; in the Fire Department, apparatus replacement and repairs to underground cable signal system at \$40,000 and \$3,000 respectively; in the Park Department, replacement of two bridges at \$70,000 and a new tool shed at \$4,000; in the Public Works Department, redecking of Cemetery Street Bridge at \$8,000 and renewal of fenders at the Municipal Dock at \$75,000; in the Recreation Department, playground improvement at \$25,000 and purchase and development of the Willard Avenue Playfield at \$240,000.

In summing up, I must observe, as in the years immediately past that this is a "tight" budget. Repetition of this statement, however, may be meaningless, unless it is emphasized that our budget is growing constantly tighter. I am concerned, and I believe you Gentlemen of the Council are also concerned with our general revenue picture. Despite our best efforts to increase our efficiency and to improve upon our economy, it seems that due to circumstances beyond our control, costs can go only higher.

Among the costs included in the proposed budget are provisions for five paid holidays for policemen and firemen estimated to cost \$75,000, and a third week of paid vacations for employees who have been with the City for ten years or more, estimated to cost \$100,000. These are "fringe benefits" common to private industry and proper for public servants as well. No opportunity, however, has been afforded by revenue receipts to provide a general increase in salaries and wages or to meet the other factors inevitable in an increased municipal cost of living situation.

I entreat the counsel and advice of this Honorable Body in relation to the budget presented here, and in relation also to the problems of providing adequately for the future. Sources of revenue such as the payroll tax, applicable to persons employed in Providence, whether or not resident in Providence, and other new sources of revenue which may prove productive should be explored in the forthcoming year.

I know that I can depend upon this City Council, as I have in the past for your consideration and your cooperation which have always been so freely offered and so gratefully received.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter H. Reynolds
Mayor of Providence

The City of Providence — Legislative Department

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE—OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Providence, R. I., July 26, 1956

TO: City Plan Commission

SUBJECT: Petition of Brown University - conduit under Brown Street

CONSIDERED BY: Committee on Public Works

ACTION TAKEN: Voted: to refer attached petition for study, report, and recommendation.

Thomas Wilson

City Clerk