



Mayor of Providence

Jorge O. Elorza

July 13, 2016

Honorable Members
Providence City Council
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Section 302(b) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended, and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 31 passed in 1987, and Providence Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2007-51, Ordinance No. 504, I am this day appointing Deborah Schimberg, of 305 Dudley Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907, to the Environmental Sustainability Task Force. Ms. Schimberg will replace Angela Bannerman Ankoma who has resigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Elorza", written over a red line.

Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL

SEP 01 2016

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Joe Lopez", written over a red line.
CLERK

Deborah Schimberg

I have lived on Dudley Street and have been involved with neighborhood issues for over 30 years. I started the Southside Community Land Trust, the International Charter School, was the first Executive Director of SVPRI (now SEG), focusing on revenue generation for nonprofit organizations and Verve, Inc. While I am white and middle-class, and would not claim to represent my neighbors I think I have a good sense of community concerns and would like to make sure that they are represented on the environmental sustainability task force.

Please identify one critical environmental sustainability issue facing Providence and describe how the city should be working to address it.

Providence's waste management program does not seem to be doing an effective job reaching residents on the south side. My understanding is that the city had not achieved the percentage of recycled material that it had expected. Furthermore, the recycling driver who picks up our own residential material told me that, actually, because of contamination, all of the recycling, apart from the east side, is now considered trash. Many renters are not aware of the regulations regarding recycling, but apart from the initial introduction of the recycling barrels, there does not seem to be any outreach or enforcement of recycling regulations.

I'd like to see the schools involved with neighborhood recycling in a more significant way as well. The opportunity to link schools more directly with their immediate communities is consistent with the Mayor's focus on Community Schools and could really help to bring recycling to a local level. Clearly, the PPSD bureaucracy has many objectives and their own challenges, but I believe that it might be possible to find a model school or two who could add recycling, gardening, composting etc. to their work.

I'm particularly interested in finding ways to have the City Partner with nonprofit organizations to accomplish mutual goals, and our environmental sustainability objectives are perfect for that sort of collaboration. Recycling, for example, requires outreach in various languages, and collaboration with neighborhood organizations, churches, etc. in order to amplify the City's message and reach people on a continual basis.