

Denied

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

Approved

RESOLVED, That the City Solicitor is hereby requested to investigate the Hartford Avenue Renewal Project sponsored by the Providence Redevelopment Agency for possible prohibited conflicts of interest, do a title search of transfers of properties in the project area prior to condemnation, review the principles of the property transferred and take appropriate action.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 3 1985

READ AND DENIED

Rose M. Mendonca CLERK

Councilman Pitts (By Request)

PROVIDENCE REFORM COALITION
The State House
Providence, R.I.
December 19, 1984

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, William G. Floriani is Supervisor of Real Estate for the Providence Redevelopment Agency;

WHEREAS, William G. Floriani is a partner in Elmgrove Associates Ltd. with Caesar Floriani;

WHEREAS, Elmgrove Associates Ltd. owned a parcel of property and building at 539 Hartford Avenue, Providence, prior to the beginning of the Hartford Avenue Project (book 1180, pg. 1125);

WHEREAS, the Providence Redevelopment Agency condemned by legal process the parcel of land and buildings adjoining and across the street from the property owned by Elmgrove Associates Ltd. (book 1242, pg. 709-717) and thus increased the value of the property of William and Caesar Floriani, i.e., Elmgrove Associates Ltd.;

WHEREAS, William Floriani did not, to our knowledge, file any disclosure of conflict of interest prior to that condemnation;

WHEREAS, to our knowledge no conflict of interest disclosure has been filed with the City Solicitor's Office as required by the City Charter;

WHEREAS, a conflict of interest disclosure was filed with the City Council on September 2, 1983;

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1984 the Providence Redevelopment Agency sold an adjoining parcel of land, cleared of its building at taxpayers' expense, to Elmgrove Associates Ltd. for \$11,200.00;

WHEREAS, the Providence Journal Bulletin of November 23, 1984 reported as follows: "Providence Redevelopment Agency sold to Elmgrove Associates Ltd. land and buildings on Hartford, Glenbridge Avenues and Bowlet Street for about \$1,440.00."

WHEREAS, the tax stamps on the deed of March 2, 1984 described the value of the property sold by the Providence Redevelopment Agency at \$11,200.00 and as being a lot of 9,500 sq. ft., known as Parcel 1 on Condemnation Deed at January 1983 (book 1242, pg. 709);

WHEREAS, the letter of October 17, 1983 to the City Council by Stanley Bernstein asks for approval of the sale of Parcel 5 containing 5,000 sq. ft. to Elmgrove Associates Ltd.;

WHEREAS, section 45-31-19 of the City Charter states: "No officer or employee of the community or of the Agency who, in the course of his duties is required to participate in the formulation of plans or policies for the redevelopment of a project area, or to approve such plans or policies, shall acquire any interest in any property included within a project area within the community";

WHEREAS, mere disclosure of a conflict of interest does not make that wrong a right;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned acts appear to be prohibited acts of conflict of interest under the City Charter;

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of the City of Providence, by paying the difference in cost of condemnation and demolition of the parcel purchased and of \$11,200.00, are subsidizing a wrongful act;

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the proposed developer of the Hartford Avenue Project has been indicted for corrupt activities relating to the City Public Works;

BE IT RESOLVED: that it is urged that the Chairman of the Providence Redevelopment Agency, the Providence City Council, and the Chief of Police investigate the Hartford Avenue Redevelopment Project sponsored by the Providence Redevelopment Agency for possible prohibited conflicts of interest, do a title search of transfers of titles of properties in the Project prior to the condemnation, review the prices of the property transferred, and take appropriate action forthwith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Elmgrove Associates Ltd. and/or William G. Floriani be required to reimburse the taxpayers of the City of Providence for the full cost of the adjoining lot purchased by Elmgrove Associates Ltd.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna L. Browder
Anna L. Browder, Vice-Chairperson
PROVIDENCE REFORM COALITION

Sara F. Mancino
Sara F. Mancino, Corresponding Sec.
PROVIDENCE REFORM COALITION

Motion to accept Resolution 84-4 was introduced by Anna L. Browder, seconded by Sara F. Mancino; acceptance of the Resolution was by unanimous Motion.