



Executive Chamber, City of Providence, Rhode Island

JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.  
MAYOR

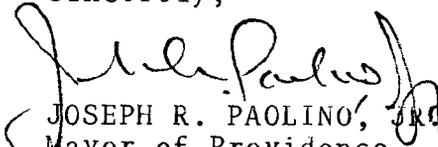
27 February 90

Rose Mendonca  
City Clerk  
Providence City Hall  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Ms. Mendonca:

Pursuant to Section 406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter, I am today calling a special meeting of the Providence City Council to be held on Thursday, March 1, 1990 at 7:00 pm. The purpose of which is to inform the Council of the impact the 1991 Rhode Island budget will have on the City of Providence.

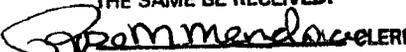
Sincerely,

  
JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.  
Mayor of Providence

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 1 1990

READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

  
CLERK

FEB 27 1990

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DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND • MAYOR JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.

Rose M. Mendonca  
City Clerk  
—  
Clerk of Council  
—  
Clerk of Committees



Michael R. Clement  
First Deputy  
—  
Jean M. Angelone  
Second Deputy

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

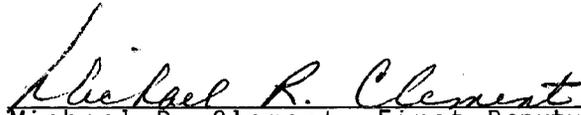
TO RALPH GUGLIELMINO, CITY SERGEANT:

WHEREAS, His Honor, Joseph R. Paolino, Jr., Mayor of the City of Providence has, pursuant to Section 406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, requested the City Clerk, in writing, to Call A Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on the 1st day of March A.D., 1990, at 7:00 o'clock P.M. (E.S.T.) for the Purpose of Enacting the Following:

TO INFORM THE COUNCIL OF THE IMPACT THE 1991 RHODE ISLAND BUDGET WILL HAVE ON THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

You are therefore, hereby commanded and required to summon each Member of the City Council to that Special Meeting, as Called. HEREOF, Fail Not, and make true return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon.

Given under my hand and Official Seal of the City of Providence, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 27th day of February A.D., 1990.

  
Michael R. Clement, First Deputy City Clerk

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, Sc.

FEBRUARY 27, 1990

I, Ralph Guglielmino, City Sergeant, do hereby certify that I have notified each Member of the City Council of the Special Meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 1, 1990 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. (E.S.T.) in the Chamber of the City Council, City Hall, Providence, in accordance with the subject Warrant by delivering to each Member a copy thereof.

  
CITY SERGEANT

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE BUDGET  
MARCH 1, 1990



THIS YEAR'S CITY BUDGET WAS HONEST AND RESPONSIBLE. IT WAS A TIGHT BUDGET WHEN WE SUBMITTED IT, AND IT'S EVEN TIGHTER NOW THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS RENEGED ON HIS COMMITMENTS AND PROMISES TO PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES.

IF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE BEING ASKED TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE WHERE THE STATE HAS FAILED--WE WILL. LET PROVIDENCE BE THE FIRST. WE'LL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE. WE'RE WILLING TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TONIGHT.

OUR RECORD IS A GOOD ONE. WE'VE REFORMED AND CHANGED GOVERNMENT AND MANAGED OUR CITY'S FINANCES. WE'VE ELIMINATED A 6 MILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT, RAISED OUR BOND RATING, AND RUN SURPLUSES EVERY YEAR, AND NOW WE WILL DO WHAT WE MUST DO TO HELP LEAD THIS STATE BACK TO FISCAL INTEGRITY.

PROVIDENCE WILL TAKE THE LEAD AND DO ITS SHARE TO HELP. WE'LL CUT WHERE WE CAN. WE'LL REFORM AND CONSOLIDATE CITY SERVICES. WE'LL TRIM GOVERNMENT, CHANGE PROGRAMS AND ECONOMIZE. WE'VE DONE IT FOR SIX YEARS AND WE WON'T STOP NOW.

BUT DON'T BE FOOLED. WE COULD HAVE DONE MORE IF THE STATE WAS HONEST WITH US. IF THEY CALLED US IN AND TOLD US WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS--HOW BIG IT WAS AND HOW DEEP IT WENT.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK. I THINK THERE'S BEEN A "BUDGET INFORMATION GAP" THAT HAS LED THIS MAYOR, AND EVERY OTHER MAYOR, TO MAKE UNFAIR AND UNANTICIPATED MID-YEAR BUDGET CORRECTIONS.

DON'T BE FOOLED. THE GOVERNOR KEPT THE EXTENT OF THIS PROBLEM AWAY FROM ALL OF US. IT'S A CANCER THAT'S NOT ONLY JEOPARDIZING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR STATE, BUT EATING AWAY AT THE FISCAL INTEGRITY OF EVERY COMMUNITY AND THE POCKETBOOKS OF EVERY PROPERTY TAXPAYER.

THERE WERE THREE THINGS MISSING FROM THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ON TUESDAY: LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND PLANNING.

SO TONIGHT LET US BE THE LEADERS. LET US BE THE MANAGERS. LET US BE THE PLANNERS.

TONIGHT WE BEGIN LEADING THE STATE OUT OF ITS FISCAL CRISIS BY TRIMMING CITY GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A SUPPLEMENTAL TAX INCREASE.

WE DON'T WANT TO RELIVE THE BAD-TIMES OF 1981. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE. TUESDAY NIGHT THE GOVERNOR TURNED BACK THE CLOCK.

I'M NOT GOING TO DO TO YOU WHAT THE GOVERNOR DID TO THE CITIES AND TOWNS. I WANT TO WORK WITH COUNCILMAN DILLON AND ALL OF YOU TO FIND SOLUTIONS AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

BUT FIRST, LET'S BE CLEAR. LET'S PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE: IT TOOK US SIX YEARS TO ELIMINATE A 6 MILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT, AND THE GOVERNOR GAVE US BACK 3 MILLION DOLLARS OF THAT DEFICIT--IN THIS FISCAL YEAR--TO MAKE UP IN JUST FIVE MONTHS.

NEXT YEAR, WE'RE FACING ANOTHER 12 MILLION DOLLARS IN STATE CUTS.

BUT TONIGHT, WE'RE PREPARED TO LEAD, TIGHTEN OUR BELT, AND MAKE CUTS TOTALLING \$3,240,000 IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET.

TO MANAGE THE PROBLEM HANDED DOWN TO US, I'M PROPOSING A 12 POINT "BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN."

FIRST, AS OF TONIGHT I'M IMPLEMENTING A HIRING FREEZE IN ALL NON-ESSENTIAL POSITIONS, AND I'M ELIMINATING ALL OVERTIME, EXCEPT WHERE THE PUBLIC SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS IS AT RISK. THIS WILL SAVE TAXPAYERS \$275,000.

SECOND, WE'RE CUTTING OUR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE STREET SWEEPING CONTRACT FOR A SAVINGS OF \$400,000. WE ALWAYS BEGAN SWEEPING STREETS IN APRIL. NOW WE'LL MANAGE FOR THREE MONTHS WITH THE TWO SWEEPERS WE HAVE IN DPW.

THIRD, WE'RE ELIMINATING ALL NON-ESSENTIAL CONTRACTS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THINGS LIKE SPECIAL STREET LIGHTS, PAINTING CROSSWALKS AND TRAFFIC LINES, AND TAX APPRAISERS FOR A TOTAL SAVINGS OF \$150,000.

FOURTH, WE'RE ELIMINATING THE DOWNTOWN TROLLEY, SAVING \$40,000.

FIFTH, THE GOVERNOR HAS GIVEN US NO CHOICE BUT TO POSTPONE A \$100,000 PAYMENT TO THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY. WE'VE DISCUSSED THE IMPACT OF THIS CUT WITH LIBRARY OFFICIALS AND ASSURED THEM THAT IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET WE WILL TRY TO RESTORE THAT PAYMENT.

SIXTH, FUNDING FOR THE PROVIDENCE CENTER WILL BE REDUCED BY \$25,000.

SEVENTH, DPIA'S ANTICIPATED CITY FUNDING WILL ALSO BE REDUCED BY \$25,000.

EIGHTH, THERE ARE TWO STUDIES THAT WERE BUDGETED FOR THIS YEAR TO LOOK AT THE JEWELRY DISTRICT AND TRAFFIC PATTERNS FOR THE CITY. TONIGHT I'M ELIMINATING THOSE STUDIES FOR A SAVINGS OF \$50,000.

NINTH, I'M ELIMINATING ALL NON-CONTRACTUAL CITY ADVERTISING, INCLUDING OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD CAMPAIGN AND OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOINT CITY-STATE PORT AUTHORITY PROGRAM. THIS WILL SAVE TAXPAYERS \$25,000.

TENTH, WE'RE MOVING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO CITY HALL, AND CANCELING THE PLANNED MOVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO MORE APPROPRIATE SPACE. THESE CHANGES WILL SAVE \$135,000.

YOU KNOW, AS WE'VE TIGHTENED OUR BELT WE'VE LOOKED AT EVERYTHING. SOME THINGS HAVE BEEN PROMISED TO NEIGHBORHOODS FOR YEARS. IT HURTS TO MAKE CUTS INTO PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT PEOPLE.

BUT--IN OUR NEXT TWO PROPOSED CUTS--WE MADE SOME HARD CHOICES THAT WILL IMPACT NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, BUT THAT'S HOW DEEPLY WE HAVE TO CUT TO MAKE UP FOR THE DEFICIT WE'VE BEEN HANDED.

THEREFORE, OUR ELEVENTH MEASURE IS A CONSOLIDATION OF RECREATION CENTERS AND THE LAY-OFF OF ALL SEASONAL RECREATION EMPLOYEES. WE WILL CONSOLIDATE THE ACTIVITIES OF 5 RECREATION CENTERS INTO 2, AND--AS OF MONDAY--THOSE SEASONAL RECREATION EMPLOYEES WILL BE LAID-OFF.

AND FINALLY, TONIGHT I'M ANNOUNCING THAT I WILL SUBMIT APPROPRIATE ORDINANCES TO LEGALLY PUT A HOLD ON 2 MILLION DOLLARS IN UNCOMMITTED BALANCES FOR REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

I'M POSTPONING THE FEDERAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART. IT COULD SAVE TAXPAYERS ONE MILLION DOLLARS. AND I'M HOLDING PROJECTS IN THE WEST END, IN TRINITY GATEWAY, IN UPPER SOUTH PROVIDENCE, AND IN SILVER LAKE, EAGLE PARK, OLNEYVILLE SQUARE, WASHINGTON PARK, AND HARTFORD AVENUE FOR A TOTAL OF 2 MILLION DOLLARS.

FRIENDS, THESE CUTS ARE TOUGH, BUT WE'RE NOT AFRAID TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE FOR EVERY LOCAL COMMUNITY THAT THE GOVERNOR PASSED ON TO US. IT'S THE CHALLENGE OF LEADERSHIP.

WE KNOW HOW TO LEAD. WE KNOW HOW TO KEEP TAXES DOWN, DELIVER SERVICES, AND MANAGE WHAT WE'VE GOT.

THE COMING YEAR WILL BE TOUGH. IT'LL REQUIRE US TO SIT DOWN AND MAKE HARD CHOICES. IT'LL MEAN CUTS, CHANGE, REFORM, AND CONSOLIDATION. BUT WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE AND WE'LL DO IT AGAIN--TOGETHER.

THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT.