

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 432

EFFECTIVE November 14, 2016

WHEREAS, Over the course of the last year and a half, many major roads and intersections in and around downtown Providence have been redesigned; and

WHEREAS, As part of that redesign, some streets that were previously one-way were made two-way, including Exchange Terrace, Empire Street, and part of Dorrance Street; and

WHEREAS, Many residents of and visitors to Providence have brought complaints to the City Council office about how the new traffic patterns are confusing, complicated, and potentially dangerous; and

WHEREAS, Particular concern has been raised about the new traffic patterns at the intersection of Exchange Terrace, Dorrance Street, and Francis Street, the intersection of Fountain Street and Dorrance Street, the intersection of Fountain Street and Empire Street; and

WHEREAS, Pedestrians have focused on the lack of clarity about when they are meant to cross at some of these intersections, pointing to many situations in which a walk signal is given at the same time as a green light for contravening traffic; and

WHEREAS, Drivers have raised concerns about confusion at downtown intersections causing increased congestion, especially during busy rush hour traffic; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, in some instances, such as traffic turning left from Fountain Street onto Francis Street, drivers are positioned in such a way that they cannot see that they are unable to clear an intersection until they have already entered it, causing them to inadvertently "block the box," which further increases congestion and leaves drivers in an unsafe position on the roadway; and

WHEREAS, Traffic congestion and safety concerns in downtown directly affect quality of life and economic development in the whole city, and present a poor image of our city to those visiting downtown; and

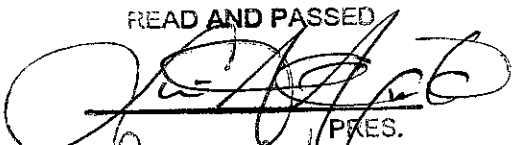

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council has a moral obligation to ensure the safety of both drivers and pedestrians on the streets of Providence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby respectfully request that the Traffic Engineer conduct a study reviewing traffic patterns and intersections in an around downtown and shall make recommendations for reducing congestion, eliminating confusion, and improving safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

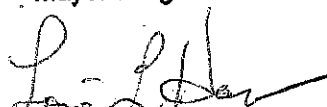
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, within ninety (90) days, the aforementioned study shall be submitted to the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of Public Works, the Director of Planning, and the Traffic Engineer.

IN CITY COUNCIL
NOV 03 2016
READ AND PASSED


PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk