

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 221

Approved June 2, 2017

WHEREAS, The March 29 gas leak in Providence closed Route 195 and portions of the City for hours; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Journal published a special report on the subject of gas leaks in its editions of May 6-8; and

WHEREAS, The report noted that Rhode Island's infrastructure of gas pipes has the second highest percentage nationally (48%) of pipes installed before 1970; and

WHEREAS, The report noted that current standards call for plastic pipes or pipe linings that prevent leaks, while older pipes made of iron or steel are more vulnerable to leaks; and

WHEREAS, The report noted that methane gas leaking from pipes is up to 86 times more harmful than carbon dioxide in trapping heat and contributing to global warming; and

WHEREAS, The report noted that National Grid, which is responsible for maintaining these pipes, estimated that the current network of pipes leaks approximately 163 more metric tons per year of methane gas than if the old pipes were replaced with current technology; and

WHEREAS, According to the report, Rhode Island's current rate of 13 hazardous leaks per 100 miles of pipe exceeds the national average of 9.4; and

WHEREAS, The network of gas pipes in Providence contains the highest concentration of old iron and steel pipes, and is thus disproportionately prone to leaks; and

WHEREAS, Gas leaks in the past have caused public safety hazards in the form of explosions and accidents; and

WHEREAS, National Grid implements its pipeline replacement program under the supervision of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor's 2017-18 municipal budget proposes the addition of a civil engineer to the Department of Public Works for the purpose of managing utility company street cut inspections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council hereby requests that the administration assign to the new engineer in the Department of Public Works the additional responsibility of reviewing National Grid's gas line repair and replacement program within the City, monitoring the implementation of the program and making recommendations as appropriate to the administration and to the City Council concerning the timeliness and quality of National Grid's program to replace old gas pipes and reduce gas leaks in the City of Providence.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 24 2017

READ AND PASSED

Sabrina Mats
PRES.

[Signature]
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]
Mayor
Date: 6/2/17