

CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor



Office of the Public Service Engineer

Peter J. Hicks, Jr.
Public Service Engineer

112 Union St. Providence 3, R. I.

December 6, 1957

Mr. D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk, City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Whelan:

I enclose herewith the bill of the Narragansett
Electric Company for the Street Lighting of the City of
Providence for the month of November, 1957.

The total net amount of the bill is \$41379.99.

Yours very truly,

Peter J. Hicks, Jr.
PETER J. HICKS, JR.
PUBLIC SERVICE ENGINEER

PJH, JR/pc
Enclosure

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC 19 1957

APPROVED:

D. Everett Whelan
CLERK

Sent to Controller
12/20/57

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Three Hundred and Fourteenth Quarterly Report
of the Board of Commissioners of Sinking Funds.

TO THE HONORABLE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PROVIDENCE:

The Board of Commissioners of Sinking Funds make this
their Three Hundred and Fourteenth Quarterly Report of the
quarter ending September 30, 1957.

The bonds comprising the funded debt, (including Serial
Bonds) the purposes for which they were issued, the amounts
of the sinking funds, and the increase in same are shown by
the following table:

September 30, 1957

SERIAL BONDS

Serial Bonds Issued for	Due	Rate	Debt Sept. 30, 1957	Payments Due in 1957
Emergency Housing—Series I	June 1, 1974	2.40	\$ 1,319,000.	\$ 62,000.
Emergency Housing—Series II	July 1, 1980	2	1,035,000.	45,000.
Funding	April 1, 1960	2	75,000.	25,000.
Funding	July 1, 1960	2	75,000.	25,000.
Funding	June 1, 1965	2	450,000.	50,000.
Highway	May 1, 1958	2	25,000.	25,000.
Highway	Jan. 1, 1974	2	220,000.	10,000.
Highway 1950-52 Construction	July 1, 1977	2.30	600,000.	(g) 23,000.
Highway—1954	Jan. 1, 1974	2½	255,000.	15,000.
Highway Reconstruction—Series I	Jan. 1, 1971	2	700,000.	50,000.
Highway Reconstruction—Series II	Jan. 1, 1971	2	700,000.	50,000.
Highway Reconstruction—Series III	July 1, 1971	2	700,000.	50,000.
Highway Reconstruction—Series A	July 1, 1975	2	458,000.	21,000.
Highway Reconstruction—Series B	July 1, 1975	2	183,000.	9,000.
Highway Reconstruction—Series C	July 1, 1975	2	458,000.	21,000.
Highway Reconstruction—Series D	July 1, 1977	2.30	1,000,000.	(g) 39,000.
Hurricane Bonds of 1956	Jan. 1, 1966	2.60	900,000.	100,000.
Incinerator & Sludge Disposal—Series I	Jan. 1, 1971	2	700,000.	50,000.
Incinerator & Sludge Disposal—Series A	July 1, 1975	2	596,000.	27,000.
Incinerator & Sludge Disposal—Series B	July 1, 1975	2	161,000.	7,000.
Modernizing Fire Dept.—Series I	Jan. 1, 1974	2	440,000.	20,000.
Modernizing Fire Dept.—Series II	July 1, 1975	2	687,000.	32,000.
Modernizing Fire Dept.—Series A	July 1, 1975	2	230,000.	10,000.
Modernizing Fire Dept.—Series B	July 1, 1977	2.30	250,000.	(g) 10,000.
Mun. Bldg., P.W.A. Docket 1150 F.	Feb. 1, 1959	2	80,000.	40,000.
Mun. Dock, P.W.A. Docket 1132 F.	Sept. 1, 1958	1½	55,000.	55,000.
Municipal Wharf Shed	July 1, 1977	2.30	1,250,000.	(g) 49,000.
Olneyville Expressway	April 1, 1981	3.40	650,000.	(b) 32,000.
Providence Public Library	Jan. 1, 1978	2½	1,950,000.	(a) 97,000.
Public Improvements	June 1, 1965	2	1,575,000.	175,000.
Public Works Garage & Warehouse	April 1, 1977	3.40	800,000.	(g) 40,000.
Recreational Facilities	June 1, 1974	2.40	755,000.	37,000.
Redevelopment—1957	April 1, 1977	3.40	2,000,000.	(g) 100,000.
Rehabilitation for Hurricane Damage	Aug. 1, 1964	2	490,000.	70,000.
Refunding (Issue 1941)	June 1, 1965	2	1,575,000.	175,000.
Refunding (Issue 1942)	June 1, 1965	2	159,500.	15,000.
Refunding (Issue 1943)	June 1, 1965	2	160,000.	20,000.
Refunding (Issue 1944)	June 1, 1965	2	160,000.	20,000.
Refunding (Issue 1945)	June 1, 1965	2	210,000.	25,000.
Refunding—Series II	June 1, 1971	1¾	1,714,000.	111,000.
Refunding—Series II-B	June 1, 1972	1.8	432,000.	26,000.
Refunding—Series II-C	June 1, 1972	2.20	598,000.	29,000.
Refunding—Series II-D	June 1, 1972	2.40	619,000.	37,000.
School	Dec. 1, 1959	4½	150,000.	50,000.
School	July 1, 1961	4	200,000.	50,000.
School	April 1, 1962	4½	250,000.	50,000.
School	July 1, 1962	4	80,000.	16,000.
School	Mar. 1, 1964	3½	105,000.	15,000.
School, P.W.A. Docket 6579	Jan. 1, 1965	3	1,040,000.	130,000.
School	April 1, 1973	3½	320,000.	20,000.
School—1954	Jan. 1, 1978	2½	1,600,000.	(a) 80,000.
School Athletic Fields—Series I	Jan. 1, 1973	2	420,000.	20,000.
School Athletic Fields—Series II	Jan. 1, 1974	2	440,000.	20,000.
School Modernization—1957	April 1, 1977	3.40	500,000.	(g) 25,000.
Total carried forward			\$32,464,500.	

S E R I A L B O N D S—(Continued)

Serial Bonds Issued for	Due	Rate	Debt Sept. 30, 1957	Payments Due in 1957
Total brought forward.....			\$32,464,500.	
Sewer.....	April 1, 1958	3½	20,000.	20,000.
Sewer.....	Jan. 1, 1974	2	220,000.	10,000.
Sewer 1950-52 Construction.....	July 1, 1977	2.30	400,000.	(g) 16,000.
Sewer 1954 Construction.....	Jan. 1, 1974	2½	170,000.	10,000.
Sewer Construction—1957.....	April 1, 1977	3.40	500,000.	(g) 25,000.
Traffic Signal & Control.....	April 1, 1981	3.40	400,000.	(b) 20,000.
Unemployment Relief.....	May 1, 1958	2	50,000.	50,000.
Unemployment Relief.....	Feb. 1, 1959	2	200,000.	100,000.
Unemployment Relief.....	Aug. 1, 1959	2½	230,000.	115,000.
Unemployment Relief.....	Sept. 1, 1960	2	60,000.	20,000.
Unemployment Relief.....	April 1, 1961	2	600,000.	150,000.
Unemployment Relief.....	April 1, 1963	1½	600,000.	100,000.
World War Memorial.....	July 1, 1962	4	45,000.	9,000.
Total.....			\$35,959,500.	

Payments begin in: (1958—g); (1959—a); (1962—b).

S I N K I N G F U N D B O N D S

Bonds Issued for	Due	Rate	Debt Sept. 30, 1957	Sinking Fund		Increase or Decrease
				June 30, 1957	Sept. 30, 1957	
Schools.....	Jan. 3, 1958	4	\$ 600,000.	\$ 519,614.03	\$ 522,584.29	\$ 2,970.26
Schools.....	Mar. 1, 1959	4½	1,000,000.	1,008,407.37	1,010,942.56	2,535.19
Water Supply.....	Feb. 1, 1962	4½	1,000,000.	962,179.17	964,050.39	1,871.22
Water Supply.....	May 1, 1962	4	2,000,000.	1,913,172.89	1,919,296.32	6,123.43
Water Supply.....	July 1, 1962	4	1,000,000.	1,004,141.28	1,008,190.17	4,048.89
Water Supply.....	Dec. 1, 1962	4	2,500,000.	2,358,599.65	2,363,851.62	5,251.97
Water Supply.....	Feb. 1, 1964	4½	2,000,000.	1,563,220.96	1,569,797.28	6,576.32
Water Supply.....	Oct. 1, 1964	4	1,500,000.	823,976.09	827,398.50	3,422.41
Water Supply.....	July 1, 1965	4	2,500,000.	784,210.70	785,429.78	1,219.08
Water Supply.....	Jan. 3, 1968	4	1,500,000.	733,619.80	735,885.68	2,265.88
Redemp. City Debt.....				781,700.47	882,950.29	101,249.82
Total.....			\$15,600,000.	\$12,452,842.41	\$12,590,376.88	\$137,534.47

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS SEPTEMBER 30, 1957

Serial Bonds.....	\$35,959,500.00
Sinking Fund Bonds.....	15,600,000.00
Total Bonded Debt.....	\$51,559,500.00
Sinking Fund.....	\$12,590,376.88
Premium on Serial Bonds Sold.....	15,448.87
Valley View Housing Reserve.....	81,059.10
Net Bonded Debt.....	\$38,872,615.15
Less Net Water Bonded Debt.....	3,826,100.26
Net Bonded Debt Exclusive of Water Debt.....	\$35,046,514.89

WATER SUPPLY BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

Sinking Fund Bonds.....	\$14,000,000.00
Sinking Funds.....	10,173,899.74
Net Water Bonded Debt.....	\$ 3,826,100.26

FUNDS HELD IN TRUST BY THE COMMISSIONERS
OF SINKING FUNDS

NAME OF FUND	June 30, 1957	Sept. 30, 1957	Increase or Decrease
Premium on Serial Bonds Sold.....	\$ 15,448.87	\$ 15,448.87
Valley View Housing Reserve.....	73,565.00	81,059.10	\$7,494.10
North Burial Ground Perpetual Care Fund	599,294.04	596,219.80	3,074.24
North Burial Grd. Per. Care Fd.—Income	51.45	906.95	855.50
Fire Insurance Fund.....	21,083.32	20,670.82	412.50
Water Works Depreciation and Extension Fund.....	1,092,298.06	1,079,298.06	13,000.00
	\$1,801,740.74	\$1,793,603.60	\$8,137.14

Respectfully submitted by request of the Board of Commissioners.

Walter H. Reynolds
WALTER H. REYNOLDS,
Mayor and Chairman

IN CITY COUNCIL
DEC 19 1957

READ:
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Everett Whelan
CLERK

RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE ON DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING

433 WESTMINSTER STREET - ROOM 212

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

December 10, 1957

The Honorable City Council
City of Providence
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Sirs:

We enclose copies of a letter and report which we have sent today to the Chairman and members of the Providence Housing Authority, describing and criticizing their continued practice of racial segregation in the public housing projects.

In view of the resolution adopted by the City Council on October 5, 1950, opposing racial discrimination or segregation in public housing projects, we feel certain that you will wish to take whatever steps may be necessary to give effect to your already stated but consistently disregarded policy.

Sincerely yours,

RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE ON
DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING

Shirley Lee
(Mrs.) Shirley Lee, President

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC 19 1957

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

W. Everett Whelan
CLERK

RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE ON DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING

433 WESTMINSTER STREET - ROOM 212

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

C
O
P
Y

December 10, 1957

Mr. Joseph P. Carroll, Chairman
Providence Housing Authority
166 Ontario Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Carroll:

Until recently the Rhode Island Committee on Discrimination in Housing had steadfastly held to our hope that by reasonable continuance of progress on the part of the Providence Housing Authority in converting from former segregational practices to effective integration of races within the public low-rent housing projects, under the new "first come, first served" policy announced by Governor Roberts over a year ago, your Authority would help us to avoid any repetition of the charges of racial discrimination which we had presented to you eighteen months ago.

As publicly announced, there has been a very close surveillance of your progress kept by one of our constituent civic organizations, the Urban League of Rhode Island, so as to ascertain exactly the effectiveness of the agreement between your Authority and the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination announced by Governor Roberts on September 20, 1956, which he hopefully predicted would "rapidly eliminate any remaining evidence of segregation and produce total integration" in public housing projects.

It now appears that although some progress, modest in amount and questionable in type, was noted over the winter months of 1956-1957, there has been no significant change shown by the Urban League's present survey over the one dated March 15, 1957. The newest maps, dated October 31, 1957, copies of which were delivered to the Authority, have also recently been delivered without any comment to our Committee, to the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination, to the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin, and possibly to other organizations. After examining the maps we can point only to the fact that during this latter period the employees of the Authority have continued to consolidate occupancy by Negroes in certain buildings and areas already having Negro occupancy, in direct contradiction to the spirit and letter of announced public policy of both the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island. The evidence of an administrative intransigence is inescapable, and is analyzed in detail below.

We must assume that the members of the Housing Authority have kept themselves fully informed of developments resulting from the efforts of your Executive Director and the staff persons responsible for tenant selection and tenant placement. We feel certain that every member of the Authority shares in the responsibility for not only the lack of continued integration progress but the actual retrogression into worsened segregation shown by the surveys.

The public nature of these charges, like those we made in June, 1956, must be very clearly understood. We do not address, and have not addressed, them to the conciliatory care of the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination. The reason for this is plainly that the public housing integration efforts of the Urban League for the past 17 years, have not been rewarded by discernably effective effort on the part of the Commission during its existence. Eight of these 17 years have ensued since the creation of the Commission and five since the enactment of the statute on public accommodations which specifically included public housing projects.

The formal complaint made in 1952 by the Urban League, the Providence Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Rhode Island Council for Human Rights concerning segregation in public housing projects had no satisfactory results, and after four years of inaction the Urban League in May, 1956 abandoned that course. Since then, the commission has been faced only with the result of the public charges brought by this committee and its constituent organizations; and therefore no possible obligation can exist for quieting these charges behind closed doors. We shall say nothing further here of the commission, except that a separate communication, highly critical in nature, is being simultaneously addressed to that body.

We have detailed the specific evidence of our presently renewed charge of administrative intransigence against the Providence Housing Authority in the report which accompanies this letter. The pattern of continued segregation in each of the projects is described and analyzed. We have also detailed in chronological order the efforts made by many agencies and organizations during the last 17 years to effect integration in Providence public housing.

We transmit this current report to the public and to your Authority with some definite recommendations. The present, entirely unsatisfactory, situation amounts, we feel, to so flagrant and contemptuous a disregard of public welfare that the Authority should now consider itself to be faced with a hard choice between two immediate alternatives, applicable to the chain of command within the staff concerned with tenant selection and placement, running through the Executive Director to and including the five members of the Authority themselves.

December 10, 1957

These alternatives are, briefly and simply, either a resignation by each of the persons carrying responsibility for the present situation, or an immediate reversal of practices so as to embrace forthwith an honest and thoroughgoing compliance with State and local laws, public policies, and the Federal directives which support these laws and policies.

It is no longer in our opinion unthinkable, as we felt eighteen months ago, that a number of otherwise able and conscientious citizen members and staff members of the Authority should be requested to leave their posts. The further continuance of this problem, if insisted upon by those persons, is so patently intolerable that no amount of technical ability at other tasks of public housing administration can outweigh the importance of overcoming their determined stubbornness in this matter.

Only if the mental or other obstacles to total compliance can be overcome, can we accept the willingness of the Authority personnel involved to continue. But if that could be truly accomplished, our Committee wishes to emphasize that this would be much the better alternative; and we would welcome the opportunity to work earnestly and harmoniously with the Authority and its staff toward a real achievement in integration. We recognize that such a program requires, just as it did in Baltimore and St. Louis, intelligent approaches and a broad framework of community cooperation by all interested civic groups as an adjunct to the local Authority's own organization for the task. We feel confident that the Authority's call upon our Committee, and upon many of our constituent groups and other community organizations as they may be needed, would be answered to the best of our ability.

These, then, are the alternatives which we earnestly recommend. One is by far the better choice, in our opinion. But above all we urge the Authority to make its choice firmly and without any further delay.

Very truly yours,

RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE ON
DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING

Shirley Lee

(Mrs.) Shirley Lee, President

IN CITY COUNCIL

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

CLERK

REPORT ON RACIAL PATTERNS OF OCCUPANCY IN
PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
1955-1957

1. Chad Brown. 1942, 312 Dwelling Units, in 28 Buildings.

In this project in December 1955 there were 17 non-white families concentrated in only three of the buildings grouped closely together. Only four of the remaining 25 buildings had positions parallel to and adjacent to these three, and of the four only one was facing across front yards. Of the 21 buildings fronting or ending upon boundary streets, only one had any non-white occupancy.

Under pressure brought by us, the Authority had by March 1957 let the number of non-white families increase to 33, in seven of the buildings. But the additional non-white families had been placed only in those buildings already adjoining previously non-white buildings; and only four buildings occupied by non-whites adjoined any street. The other 17 boundary-street buildings were totally white, and three of the four boundary streets were still free of non-white occupancy.

By October 1957 eight more non-white families were in residence, but only one additional building was involved. Every one of the 14 buildings fronting or ending upon Berkshire Street, June Street, and Chad Brown Street was still free of any non-white occupancy. Moreover, the number of non-white occupants in the three buildings occupied two years earlier had been increased in every instance.

Our conclusion is that since the odds against this trend of pattern, if we could assume honest adherence to the announced "first come, first served" basis with respect to the many units vacated during the period, would have been extremely great, the Authority's tenant placement staff has incontrovertibly, effectively and in violation of manifold declarations of public policy, continued to discriminate against Negroes by segregation practices, apparently with the consent or direction of the Executive Director and with the condonement of the members of the Authority.

2. Roger Williams. 1943, 744 Dwelling Units, in 28 Buildings.

In December 1955 this project had 73 non-white families grouped at the southeast quarter of the project in only ten buildings. Two of these buildings were solidly non-white. Only three buildings of this group fronted on a street, at the back end of the project, while the eleven other buildings on boundary streets had exclusively white occupancy.

By March 1957 slight improvement was evident. One more boundary building and three more interior buildings had become integrated; but the two solidly non-white buildings were still occupied only by non-white families after 15 months. Seven of the eight other buildings previously occupied in part by non-whites had received additional non-white families, but 14 of the 18 all-white buildings were still solidly white at the close of the 15-month period, although there were 16 more non-white families in

the project by that time. At about that time threats of peremptory relocation action were received by several tenants who promptly appealed to the Urban League for protection against involuntary sudden removal from their units, as no question of their eligibility for continued occupancy was involved.

Seven months later, in October 1957, 21 dwelling units in those two formerly solid non-white buildings had been vacated, in most instances by removal to other units, and had not been re-occupied. The occupancy in those buildings continues to be entirely non-white; and the same 14 solidly white buildings remain so. The number of non-white families had reduced from 89 to 83 during this period.

The conclusion which we must draw from this project's progression is seriously critical. Through much pain and suffering by tenants, the Authority has forced or induced by persuasion, or by a combination of the two methods, caused many families to pack up and move on the pretext that "integration" made it desirable and necessary; but the result of all this inconvenience is sorely aggravated by the fact that the box score did not change in respect to the number of buildings involved in integration: 2 with non-whites only, 12 with both races, and 14 with whites only, and in all three groups the buildings are identically the same in location. The net effect is an intolerable and inhumane wasting of the tenants' energies and those of the Authority's staff alike, which must never be repeated. The Governor's public announcement of September 20, 1956, assured the state that plans were being made to give residents of segregated sections a chance to move to other areas. He patently did not mean other segregated sections, leaving the previously all-white sections unintegrated.

3. Coddling Court. 1951, 119 Dwelling Units, in 5 Buildings.

This project was built within a neighborhood of mixed Negro and white occupancy. In 1950 Census Tract 12, which included the vacant project site and the surrounding neighborhood, was only 11.3% non-white, having increased very slightly from 10.7% since 1940. The eight blocks immediately adjoining the site had actually decreased from 57.2% to 52.0% non-white in their residential occupancy. There was no substantial predominance of Negroes in adjoining blocks, and the Census Tract had eight white families for every Negro family.

Despite the mixed character of, and predominance of whites in, the surrounding area, the Housing Authority decided upon virtually total Negro occupancy initially, with 107 Negro families and 12 white families. By December 1955 only three white families occupied the project with 116 Negro families, making segregation very nearly complete. Under pressure by our Committee, the Authority had raised the number of white families to 6 by March 1957; but in October 1957 the number had settled back to 3 white families. Two additional Negro families had been brought into this project.

While the Authority may claim that most white families will not willingly move into a Negro project, our position remains clearly that the Authority had no moral right to establish any predominantly Negro project, particularly in view of the efforts then made by the Urban League, as the community's red-feather agency specializing in inter-group relations, to have this project established as an inter-racial project in keeping with the neighborhood surrounding it. Further, it remains our position that the Authority has no legal right under State law and City of Providence stated policy to maintain Coddling Court as a predominantly Negro project. The additional two Negro families were placed here in disregard and defiance of the letter and spirit of the law and of public policy.

4. Admiral Terrace. 1951, 278 Dwelling Units, in 24 Buildings.

In December 1955 there were 22 non-white families here, roughly half of them grouped in a single building which was solidly non-white. Another building was occupied almost completely by non-white families, and two other buildings adjacent to the first one mentioned had one non-white family apiece. The other 20 buildings were solidly white in occupancy. It is fair to state that in this project the buildings selected for Negroes were not, with one exception, interior buildings.

Fifteen months later, in March 1957, one change had occurred. One of the formerly white buildings on Fillmore Street had a Negro family placed within it, very near the building which had been and still was almost solidly non-white. The other 19 were still solidly white, and there continued to be one all-Negro building.

By October 1957 two more changes had occurred. One white family had moved into an apartment in the formerly all-Negro building; and another Negro family had been placed, immediately adjoining the previously added Negro family, in the building on Fillmore Street. But the score of integrated and segregated buildings remained virtually unchanged: two almost completely non-white, 3 integrated, and 19 completely white.

We can only conclude that the same administrative deviousness had been exercised by the Authority here, with slight variation in method, as in the three previously analyzed projects. The moving vans are frequently seen here, as many units have fallen vacant over the past two years in this project, just as in every portion of every project, averaging about 25% each year throughout the six projects. The opportunities for real integration have been everywhere apparent and at all times continuous. The Authority's results under the "integration" policy announced by the Governor and detailed jointly for the press by the Authority and the Commission Against Discrimination have been limited severely by false "gradualism", arbitrariness and highly ingenious caprice.

5. Manton Heights. 1953, 330 Dwelling Units, in 21 Buildings.

There is almost nothing to analyze or report here. Initially an exclusively white project built with everyone's tax money, the survey maps in December 1955 still showed complete segregation of white families. Under our severe criticism, the Authority immediately requested a Negro family to apply and move into this project late in 1956. The resurveys of March 1957 and October 1957 indicated no subsequent change. There are 329 white families and one Negro family here; one building integrated, 20 buildings segregated.

We must here raise the question whether the Authority's intention is one of "token integration" only, in a city where approximately 15% of all families eligible for low-rent public housing are Negro. Can it be possible that only one eligible Negro family in four years has stated a preference for this project, one of the two newest and most modern projects in the city?

6. Hartford Park. 1953, 748 Dwelling Units, in 56 Buildings.

This is the latest, largest, and most modern project in the entire low-rent public housing program here, having received national recognition for its design. But almost nothing can be reported on the progress of integration here. The December 1955 survey showed that one lone Negro family, as another "token" in integration, saved this project from the onus of complete exclusiveness. Under public pressure and with specific organizational insistence in the face of stout resistance, put up by Authority personnel only, two more of the requesting Negro families were admitted reluctantly before March 1957. In October 1957 the latest resurvey showed that progress had been arrested where it had barely started, as no more Negro families had been admitted to that date. This project is thus 99.598% white.

SUMMARY

Summarizing the six projects together, we find that a total of 267 Negro families were occupying low-rent public housing units in October 1957, compared with 262 in March 1957 and 229 in December 1955. The ratio of non-white families to total available units has increased from 9.05 to 10.55 per hundred. It appears to our Committee that the 38 additional non-white families, plus those who replaced non-whites who moved into private housing during the past 22 months, could easily, on a "first come, first served" basis, have been located in available units of the required sizes according to project preference so as to have overcome very largely the concentrated patterns of colonization which we continue to find. The only exception to this expectation is, of course, Coddling Court, where a somewhat longer time would have been required to overcome the gross mistake of ghetto formation which was perpetrated by the Authority there in 1951. Applying the fact approximately 25% vacancies per annum, there were in the neighborhood of 650 opportunities for integrational

placements during the thirteen months between the Governor's announcement and the most recent survey. In other words, each of the 38 additional non-white families could, on the average, have been given seven non-overlapping alternatives as to location.

Turning for a moment to the Valley View veterans' project owned by the City of Providence and operated by the Housing Authority under a contract for management services for the benefit of veterans' families who can afford medium rents, we have not previously leveled any charges against the Authority on the basis of this project. There are 256 dwelling units here, in 64 buildings some of which are attached in rows of three buildings each. This project has been occupied for nine years, since its completion in 1948. We are informed that there has never been any Negro occupancy in this project. We desire the Authority to answer publicly the question of whether any eligible family of a Negro veteran has ever applied in an attempt to gain occupancy of a unit at Valley View. Also, if any non-veterans have been housed in this project, whether any other eligible Negro has applied, and what the result of such applications may have been.

MAJOR STEPS TAKEN IN COMMUNITY'S STRUGGLE
FIRST TO PREVENT AND LATER TO OVERCOME
PATTERNS OF SEGREGATED HOUSING

It has been:

17 years since the Urban League's executive director observed, on December 21, 1940, that "the thing Negroes must watch now is that there develop no movement to place all Negro families in one project";

16 years since the League was investigating charges that Negroes were not being hired as construction workers on the Authority's first project;

15 years since the League's Housing Committee sought to arrange a conference with the Authority to discuss the integrated inclusion of Negroes in its projects (repeated requests by the League's Board of Directors for a meeting with the Authority's members have never received the courtesy of a direct answer);

Almost 8 years since Mayor Roberts, by letter of January 5, 1950, expressed to the Authority his personal desire that there be no discrimination or restrictions imposed on the use of any public facility because of race, creed or color or national origin;

7 years since the City Council of Providence, on October 5, 1950 adopted its resolution declaring its policy opposing racial discrimination or segregation in public housing projects and directing that a copy be trans-

mitted to the Authority;

6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years since the New York Field Office of the Public Housing Administration issued, in May, 1951, a guide for local housing authorities on how to accomplish integration of racial minorities in public housing projects;

6 years since Coddling Court was filled almost solidly with Negroes by the Authority;

5 $\frac{3}{4}$ years since complaints from Negro groups in Providence prompted the State Fair Employment Practices Commission to seek jurisdiction over public housing projects;

5 $\frac{1}{2}$ years since the FEPC was reorganized as the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination under the 1952 Statute on Public Accommodations which specifically forbade racial discrimination in public housing projects;

5 $\frac{1}{4}$ years since Mayor Reynolds' inquiry to the Authority about specific allegations of segregation failed to produce any specific reply on that point; since even a strongly worded demand by the PROVIDENCE JOURNAL and EVENING BULLETIN editorials of July 18, 1952 that charges of segregation by the Rhode Island Council for Human Rights and the Urban League should be answered, also failed to produce anything but silence from the Authority; and since the Chairman of the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination asked for a general silence on the issue, preferring to treat it as any private complaint;

5 years since the Attorney General's Department advised the State Commission Against Discrimination on November 17, 1952, in answer to a request by the Commission for an opinion, that segregation in public housing violates state law "even though facilities made available to any particular race, color or creed are equal to or better than those furnished to other applicants..." (this opinion was suppressed for three years and eight months until discovered by a JOURNAL-BULLETIN reporter);

Almost 5 years since the Commission reported, on February 12, 1953, that the Authority had promised to cooperate on realizing the basic principles of the State's anti-discrimination law (However, the published statement, and agreement on conciliation did not disclose any terms of a settlement, and merely claimed that the Authority had been complying all along). The Urban League promised that subsequent operations of the Authority would be watched closely;

4 years since publication of a manual on "Open Occupancy in Public Housing" by the Public Housing Administration, constituting a "distillation

of some 15 years of experience of local housing authorities in the administration of public housing projects housing more than one racial group", stating that "When a shifting is made from a policy of enforced segregation to one of open occupancy, clear-cut policy implemented all down the line is found to be mandatory". (This manual was called to the Authority's attention 18 months ago);

3 3/4 years since the League again complained on March 27, 1954, of segregation in occupation policies at the Roger Williams project;

2 years since the organization of the Rhode Island Committee on Discrimination in Housing for the purpose of correcting and preventing housing discrimination and of promoting integration in housing in Rhode Island;

2 years since the Urban League, with the beforehand knowledge of both the Authority and the State Commission, undertook a detailed survey of the location of every non-white family in public housing projects in Providence;

21 months since new complaints of continued segregation by the Authority were publicized by the League and denied again by the Authority;

18 months since the Rhode Island Committee on Discrimination in Housing launched the present continuous campaign for overcoming segregation in the Providence public housing projects;

17 months since the New York Regional Office of the Federal Public Housing Administration advised our Committee, with the Authority's knowledge, that they "are concerned that the program of Federally-supported public housing in your community be administered in keeping with State and municipal laws";

15 months since Governor Roberts publicly announced the "first come, first served" non-discriminatory policy which was to govern Authority practices;

14 months since the terms of the agreement reached one month earlier between the Authority and the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination were made public in detail;

12 months since the Authority and the Commission publicized conflicting statements about "integration difficulty" and "satisfactory and encouraging progress toward complete integration" on December 28 and 29, 1956;

8 months and 1 month, respectively, since the latest Urban League resurveys resulted in the mapped information analyzed in the first portion of this communication, showing the trend toward further segregation in public housing.

MEMORANDUM TO THE CITY CLERK

Dear Mr. Whelan:

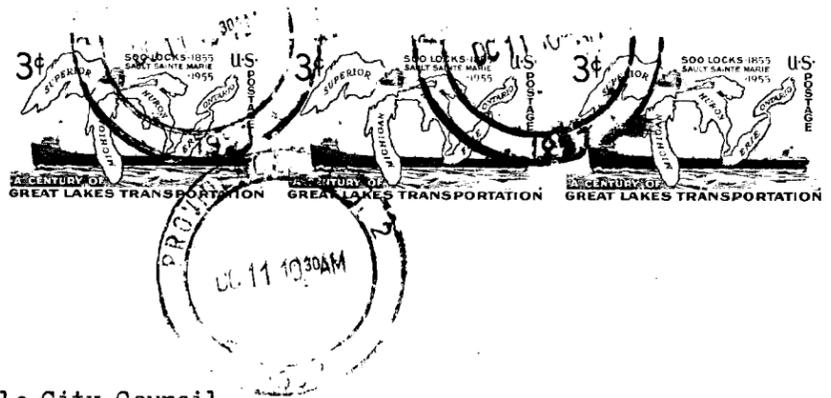
The enclosed communication is addressed formally to the City Council, with the expectation that it be received at the next meeting of the Council and duly recorded in the Journal of Proceedings.

(Mrs.) Shirley Lee, President
RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE ON
DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING

**RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE ON DISCRIMINATION
IN HOUSING -**

433 Westminster Street - Room 212

Providence, R. I.



The Honorable City Council
City of Providence
City Hall
Providence
Rhode Island