

**City of Providence**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 354*

**EFFECTIVE August 3, 2017**

WHEREAS, Many residents of the area around Rhode Island College (RIC) have raised concerns about traffic into residential neighborhoods and other issues emanating from the campus; and

WHEREAS, RIC's large footprint in the Elmhurst and Mount Pleasant neighborhoods and the great number of vehicles going to and from the campus present many traffic problems and quality of life concerns for those who live near RIC; and

WHEREAS, In order to answer questions from constituents and to better understand the many issues related to the RIC campus, RIC has been repeatedly asked to provide the City with an updated institutional master plan, but have yet to do so; and

WHEREAS, Of particular concern is a proposed parking lot expansion abutting the Sheffield Avenue gate and the residential areas of Hooker Street and Basswood Avenue; and

WHEREAS, This proposed parking lot expansion would include approximately 150 new surface level parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, The existing Institutional Master Plan for RIC does not identify the site of the proposed parking expansion as a location for future parking, but rather states that the college's long term plan for the residential precincts is to "enhance open space"; and

WHEREAS, Section 1910.D of the Providence Zoning Ordinance states that all Institutional Master Plans must include "A parking plan that shows the location of all institutional parking facilities on and off the campus"; and

WHEREAS, Section 1910.E of the Providence Zoning Ordinance states that new parking facilities are not consistent with an approved Institutional Master Plan, unless they contain ten or fewer parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, The proposed new parking lot appears to violate both Section 1910.D and Section 1910.E of the Providence Zoning Ordinance, as the RIC Institutional Master Plan does not identify the location of the proposed parking lot as an institutional parking facility and the new lot would have more than ten parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, the addition of a new parking lot on the RIC campus will have many negative environmental ramifications, including the creation of a new asphalt hot spot and detracting from the City's storm water management efforts; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Code of Ordinances states that the purpose of Institutional Master Plans is "to promote the orderly growth and development of health care institutions and university or college educational facilities while preserving neighborhood character, historic resources, and consistency with the city's comprehensive plan and adopted land use policies"; and

WHEREAS, Providence's Comprehensive Plan, approved by the State in 2014, "encourage[s] the redevelopment of and reduction of surface parking lots" and "discourage[s] the creation of new surface parking lots as they are a detriment to the city's economic future and its built environment"; and

WHEREAS, The proposed parking expansion is inconsistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and therefore violates provisions of the Code of Ordinances and runs contrary to the purpose Institutional Master Plans; and

WHEREAS, Given that the State of Rhode Island is responsible for approving the comprehensive plans of cities and towns, it is especially problematic to see a State institution such as RIC seemingly attempting to circumvent the City's Comprehensive Plan and the proper vetting of its Institutional Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, In light of these problems and concerns, a thorough vetting of RIC's institutional master plan is critical at this time; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Providence has an obligation to ensure that the laws of the City are properly enforced and that the quality of life of in our neighborhoods is protected and enhanced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that Rhode Island College provide the City Council with an accurate and up-to-date Institutional Master Plan within ninety (90) days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that Rhode Island College submit its Institutional Master Plan to the City Plan Commission for review and complete all the public participation requirements, including neighborhood meetings, required in accordance with Section 1910 of the Zoning Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that Rhode Island College cease any and all construction not approved in their existing Institutional Master Plan until and unless a new Institutional Master Plan is publicly vetted and approved by the City Plan Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Director of the Planning Department, the City Solicitor, the members of the City Plan Commission, and the President of Rhode Island College.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**JUL 24 2017**

**READ AND PASSED**

*Antonia Matis*  
**ACTING PRES**

*Lori L. Hagen*  
**CLERK**

**Effective without the Mayor's Signature**

*Lori L. Hagen*

**Lori L. Hagen  
City Clerk**