

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 648

Approved November 9, 1978

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR AN URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT.

WHEREAS, the filing of Urban Development Action Grants by the City of Providence is authorized by Title I, Section 119, Part 570, Subpart G, of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended by Section 110 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1977, and as finalized on January 10, 1978; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Federal regulations authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to assist distressed cities and distressed urban counties in revitalizing their economic bases and reclaiming deteriorated neighborhoods by means of public and private sector cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Providence deems it necessary and in the public interest (1) to revitalize its commercial and retail sectors, (2) to increase the City's employment base, (3) to increase the City's tax base, (4) to renovate existing commercial buildings, and (5) to encourage the cooperation of the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Providence deems it appropriate to contribute to the aforementioned efforts by assuring the attraction, retention, and expansion of commercial and retail business in the Central Business District, and by arranging funding for the construction of a parking facility to serve such businesses and the citizens of Providence; and

WHEREAS, Urban Development Action Grants are available for the activities and undertakings proposed herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE as follows:

1. It is hereby found necessary and in the public interest to file an application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for an Urban Development Action Grant for the construction of a 1000 car parking garage on the blocks bounded by Empire, Weybosset, Mathewson, and Chapel Streets, and for the associated costs of acquisition and preparation of aforesaid blocks for development, in the amount of \$11,306,000.
2. The Department of Planning and Urban Development is hereby authorized and designated as the representative of the City for filing the application with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and to do all work necessary to carry out the terms of the contract between the City and the Department of Housing and Urban Development relative to said Urban Development Action Grant.
3. That the United States of America and the Department of Housing and Urban Development be, and they are hereby assured of full compliance by the City of Providence with all regulations of the United States Government effectuating the receipt of Federal Grants under the Housing and Community Development Act, as amended.

IN CITY COUNCIL

NOV 2 1978

READ AND PASSED

*Ralph J. Lugo* PRES.

*Rose M. Mendonca* CLERK

**APPROVED**

MAYOR

*Isaiah A. Cravie, Jr.*

NOV 9 1978

FILED

Nov 2 10 03 AM '78

DEPT. OF CITY CLERK  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

MOA • JALB

RECORDED

ABBRO, ED

THE COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Approves Passage of  
The Within Resolution as amended

Rose M. Mendonca  
Chairman

Clerk

Nov. 1, 1978

STANLEY BERNSTEIN  
DIRECTOR



VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.  
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

40 FOUNTAIN ST., - PROVIDENCE, R. I. 02903 - TEL. 401-831-6550

September 13, 1978

Mrs. Rose M. Mendonca  
City Clerk  
City Clerk's Office  
City Hall  
Providence, R.I. 02903

Re: Resolution Authorizing the Department of Planning and Urban Development on behalf of the City of Providence to Prepare and Submit an Application for an Urban Development Action Grant.

Dear Mrs. Mendonca:

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1977 established an Urban Development Action Program as a major new initiative for the Nation's distressed urban areas. Under this program, the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to make grants for urban development from amounts approved in appropriations acts to distressed cities and urban counties to help alleviate physical and economic deterioration. These grants are in addition to other forms of Federal assistance, including assistance provided under the Block Grant Program. They are designed to take advantage of unique opportunities to attract and leverage private investment into severely distressed communities. Since the Program's inception in January, 1978, over 45 cities have been granted over \$200 million to fund projects which have such potential.

The Department of Planning and Urban Development recently has prepared a dramatic development proposal for the Central Business District of Providence. The proposal envisions the construction of a 1000 car parking facility, the Federal Office Building now being considered for Providence, and a major office building on a site bounded by Westminster, Weybosset, Mathewson, and Empire Streets. In addition, substantial rehabilitation of buildings in the project area is anticipated.


The positive impact of this Weybosset Gateway Project on the City of Providence would be substantial. New development and rehabilitation of existing, underutilized buildings would create new employment opportunities, expand the tax base of the City, and create a new, exciting environment in the heart of Downtown Providence. The parking facility, with both long and short term spaces available to the public, would assure the retention and

expansion of existing businesses in the Downtown, both commercial, such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Gilbane, and retail, as convenient, safe, secure parking would be available.

*Amendment*

The funding for all elements of this project, except for the garage, would be private. The 1000 car garage, however, as a major stimulant and support to this proposed private development, lends itself to funding under the Urban Development Action Grant Program. The Department of Planning and Urban Development is prepared to submit an application for an Urban Development Action Grant for the full amount of the construction of the garage as well as land acquisition and site preparation. The application would be for \$7.75 million. If granted, an award from the Program would enable the City to undertake a major revitalization project without the use of City funds. It is therefore respectfully requested that the attached proposed resolution be presented to the City Council for its September 21st meeting and that favorable action be taken at its first meeting in October.

Sincerely yours,

  
Stanley Bernstein  
Director

SC