



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 419

EFFECTIVE October 27, 2024

WHEREAS, The East Side Marketplace at 165 Pitman Street since its founding in 1981 by Scott Laurans has been a vital community grocery store, providing local East Side and Providence families, seniors, and residents with fresh food and essential groceries and goods for decades; and

WHEREAS, The East Side Marketplace has had a strong reputation and has been a cornerstone of the community winning the hearts of its customers including being named "Best Local Supermarket" 12 times by *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine; and

WHEREAS, Ahold USA, which acquired Eastside Marketplace in 2014, has operated the store under the Stop & Shop brand; and

WHEREAS, Ahold USA/Stop & Shop announced earlier this year the closure of 32 "underperforming" stores by the end of this year, including the 165 Pitman Street location by November, a move that could leave a significant gap in grocery services for East Side residents, particularly families, seniors, and those who rely on proximity for everyday necessities; and

WHEREAS, A local survey of more than 500 East Side residents revealed support (55.5%) for replacing the location with a Dave's Marketplace, with Market Basket, Aldi, and Wegmans also ranking as highly favored alternatives respectively; and

WHEREAS, The presence of a local grocery store is an important component of the East Side and Providence's community vitality, providing not only fresh, quality food and produce but also supporting local jobs, and maintaining a walkable, sustainable neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The closure of this location threatens to disrupt the day-to-day lives of countless city residents and employees and the uncertainty surrounding the future of the property necessitates swift and decisive action to ensure a seamless transition to a new grocery tenant; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council recognizes that any prolonged delay in transitioning the space to a new grocer would exacerbate the negative quality of life impacts on the community and ultimately leave a void in a neighborhood that depends on this accessible grocery options for its health and well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council strongly urges KGI, Ahold Delhaize and Stop & Shop to expedite the process of securing a new grocery tenant for the 165 Pitman Street location, minimizing any delay that could further inconvenience and disrupt the lives of East Side and Providence residents, especially those who depend on this essential grocery store; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage KGI, Ahold Delhaize and Stop & Shop to work collaboratively with city officials, community leaders, and prospective tenants, including Dave's Marketplace, Market Basket, Aldi, Wegmans, Whole Foods etc. to ensure a smooth and timely transition that reflects the desires of the community; and

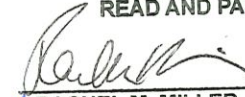

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge the property owners to act as a responsible partner in this transition, honoring its legacy of grocery service to the East Side and ensuring that the future of the location continues to meet the high standards of quality, service and connection that Eastside Marketplace has long exemplified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to Ahold Delhaize U.S., Stop & Shop, Dave's Marketplace, Market Basket, Aldi, Wegmans, and other relevant parties, with the hope that they will prioritize this transition to prevent any unnecessary delay in providing much-needed grocery services to our community.

IN CITY COUNCIL

OCT 17 2024

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk