

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 315

Approved April 22, 1983

WHEREAS, The City of Providence and its downtown business community have through cooperative efforts involving the pooling of public resources and authority, with private resources and business know-how have undertaken a number of major successful downtown revitalization efforts including: the Randall Square and Weybosset Hill Urban Renewal projects; the Kennedy Plaza and Capital Center projects; the construction of the Civic Center and Federal Office buildings; the restoration and rehabilitation of the Biltmore Hotel, Providence Performing Arts Center, Trinity Square Repertory Company and Providence Arcade, and

WHEREAS, Despite an overall environment of revitalization and the continued expansion of the downtown as the cultural, educational, governmental, and office service center of our State and Region, retail trade and its historic home in the Westminster Center area have suffered and declined, and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the City through increased jobs and property values to address the problems of Westminster Center and the future of downtown retailing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council, and the Mayor of the City of Providence; and the downtown business community, as represented by the Providence Foundation, should pool their resources and establish a Blue Ribbon Commission which shall analyze the conditions which have brought about the decline of the Westminster Center area and to recommend to the City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning within six months action steps that should be taken to enable the Westminster Center to participate in the downtown's revitalization. Said Commission shall establish its own chair and rules for operation and shall be made up of three individuals appointed by each the City Council President, the Mayor, and the Foundation, with the Mayor and City Council President serving ex-officio. The Department of Planning and Urban Development shall serve as staff to the Commission.

Issues which the Commission should address should include, but not be limited to:

1. What is the future of retailing in downtown Providence and how might retail be attracted to downtown in general and Westminster Center in particular?

2. How other building uses, office and residential primarily, can be attracted to the vacant upper floors of buildings in Westminster Center?

3. Whether Westminster and Union Streets Mall should be retained as pedestrian malls or should be reconfigured to allow vehicular traffic?

4. What role parking plays and what steps should be taken to improve the current situation?

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 21 1983
READ AND PASSED

[Signature]
PRES.
[Signature]
CLERK

APPROVED
APR 22 1983
[Signature]
MAYOR

**THE COMMITTEE ON
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
GENERAL PLANNING**

**Approves Passage of
The Within Resolution**

Rose M. Menzies
Clerk **Chairman**
March 30, 1980