



IN CITY COUNCIL

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Providence Review Commission

"Building Pride In Providence"

Date: January 31, 1990

To: The Governor, State of Rhode Island
 The General Assembly, State of Rhode Island
 The Mayor, City of Providence
 The City Council, City of Providence
 The Finance Director, City of Providence

From: James R. Winoker, Chairman

Subject: Semi Annual Report (July 1, 1989 - December 31, 1989)

During the reporting period, the Providence Review Commission convened on July 11th, August 15th, September 26th, October 31st, and November 28th.

At each of the meetings, monthly reports from the Finance Department, the Purchasing Department and the Personnel Department were reviewed and discussed.

The appointment of Patricia Cerilli to the Commission in July brought the membership to a full compliment. In order to educate and familiarize Commissioners with the operation of city government, meetings were scheduled at various city departments and department heads were asked to present an overview of their operations. Below is a brief synopsis of the meetings.

July 11, 1989 (at City Hall)

The issue of minority bidding was discussed in detail. The Director of Purchasing assured the Commission that every effort was being made to encourage minority vendors to submit bids to the city. The City had conducted seminars and symposiums to educate minority vendors on "how to bid".

The 87 - 88 audit report as prepared by the City's independent auditors was discussed with particular attention being paid to the qualifiers relating to the pension funding and fixed asset accounting.

Generally accepted accounting principals call for 100% funding of the pension plan and for that year the City had not funded 100%. For the year 89-90, it is the City's intent to fund the pension

100%.

As to fixed asset accounting and the necessary research required to establish those records, the City's current position is that the cost benefit ratio was insufficient to warrant the expenditures. The administration, however, will continue to explore other means of establishing historical cost data.

The meeting concluded with a presentation of the organizational structure of the City by the Director of Administration and then Commission members were invited to tour various departments within City Hall.

August 15, 1989 (at the Department of Public Works)

Discussion of the City's resident requirement ensued with particular emphasis upon how the administration was dealing with "hard to fill" positions and the granting of exemptions. There is a fixed procedure allowing the City Council to make the final decision for granting exemptions.

The ownership of properties relating to the Capitol Center Project was reviewed. An overview of the Project will be presented at a later meeting.

Jim Suzman, Director of DPW presented a detailed overview of his department giving the Commissioners insight into the areas of garbage collection, snow removal, street sweeping, street and sidewalk maintenance, the storm sewer system, environmental matters, the hurricane barrier, and traffic engineering. The overview concluded with a tour of DPW facilities.

September 26, 1989 (at Roger Williams Park)

After the review of the monthly reports, Nancy Derrig, Superintendent of Parks, and her staff presented a most informative overview of the City's parks with significant emphasis on Roger Williams Park and the zoo. The Commission was most impressed with the high degree of professionalism that is now present in the operation of the City's park system and with the general improvement and upgrading of the many neighborhood parks. The presentation was concluded with a brief tour of Roger Williams Park.

October 31, 1989 (at the Water Supply Board, Providence)

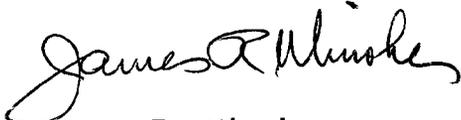
From the review of the Finance Report, a discussion relating to crime in the city took place. In order to gain an insight into the problems facing the Public Safety Department, it was suggested that the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief of Police and Fire Chief be invited to attend a PRC meeting in the near future.

Hans Bergey, Acting Manager of the Water Supply Board, presented an overview of the the operation of the water supply system. The presentation demonstrated the fragility of our water supply. Without a significant commitment to the preservation of the water and the distribution system, this "taken for granted" resource could be in jeopardy. Presently, there is no alternate source of water. The presentation by the Water Supply Board was continued to the next meeting.

November 28, 1989

Upon completion of the presentation of the departmental reports, Mr. Edward Burke, Chairman of the Water Supply Board, continued the presentation by the Board. The focus of the presentation at this meeting was upon what commitments would be necessary and the cost of the commitments, to maintain and preserve the current high quality water and distribution system. Copies of a Facility Needs Assessment prepared by O'Brien & Gere, and the Capital Improvements Plan prepared by Cataudella Associates, Inc. were distributed and reviewed. Alternative methods of financing these improvements was also discussed.

Respectfully submitted,



James R. Winoker
Chairman

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