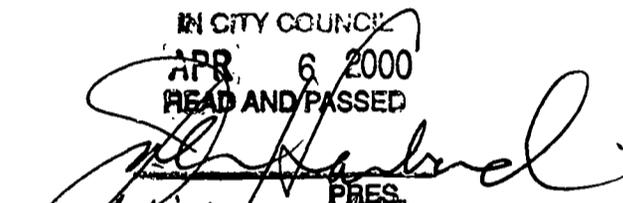
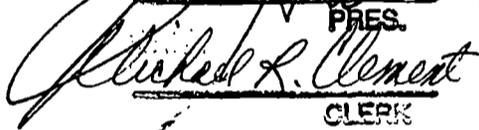


RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 215

Approved April 14, 2000

RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council
hereby Support the Resolution of the City of Warwick regarding the
Operation of Trains.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 6 2000
READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

APPROVED
APR 14 2000

MAYOR

Council President Lombardi (By request)

THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO. R-00-46

DATE 14 March 2000

APPROVED *Sam Amedisio* MAYOR

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE OPERATION OF TRAINS

Resolved that,

1 WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are
2 matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

3 WHEREAS, there has been scheduled a substantial increase in the number of traditional,
4 double-stack freight trains, and tri-level auto trains which travel through the City of Warwick
5 from Quonset to the Massachusetts state line; and

6 WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) is currently
7 studying the scheduling of traditional, double-stack freight trains, and tri-level auto trains
8 travelling through the City of Warwick as part of the Freight Rail Improvement Project (FRIP);
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Amtrak has just begun increased use of these same tracks through the City
11 with the advent of their high-speed train service between New York and Boston; and

12 WHEREAS, the Director of RIDOT, William Ankner, has recently expressed grave
13 concerns regarding the operation of these large freight trains on the same tracks as passenger
14 trains; and

15 WHEREAS, the Director of RIDOT is concerned with a safety standard called the
16 "meets" test in which there must be adequate minimum distance between a freight train and a
17 passenger train to pass without collision; and

18 WHEREAS, the Director of RIDOT is concerned, in particular, with a five mile stretch of
19 track between East Greenwich and the Cowesett section of Warwick where passenger and freight
20 trains must share the same track and where clearances between the trains are very narrow; and

21 WHEREAS, the Director of RIDOT has stated, "There is a concern that the industry of
22 double stack container shipping is not well maintained and improper stacking could cause a shift
23 of the container, such that a passenger train coming in the opposite direction would hit it and
24 cause a fatal accident"; and

25 WHEREAS, the residents abutting the railroad tracks have noticed cracks in the
26 foundations of their buildings, and have noticed an increase in late night and early morning
27 disturbances such as vibrations and noise from significantly heavier and longer freight trains; and

28 WHEREAS, the residents abutting the railroad tracks have expressed concerns for their
29 safety, well being and quality of life as a result of the increased use of these tracks, and

30 WHEREAS, the City of Warwick recognizes that it cannot establish mandatory rules and
31 regulations regarding the operation of trains in the City without being in violation of Federal
32 and/or State laws; and

33
34 WHEREAS, the City desires to be a good neighbor with the passenger and freight line

1 industries operating on said track and in promoting their economic vitality, while providing our
2 residents with alternative, convenient and affordable means of transportation and shipping; and

3 WHEREAS, the City desires to make a public policy statement calling for:

- 4 1. A curfew so that freight trains would not operate between 11:00 PM and 6:30 AM
5 in order to preserve and protect the quality of life of the citizens of Warwick and
6 the State of Rhode Island; and
- 7 2. Requesting that RIDOT require the implementation of a computer system that
8 would provide real-time train departures so that Amtrak could hold a passenger
9 train while a freight train passes on dangerously narrow tracks in the city.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE City Council hereby requests that
11 the Rhode Island Department of Transportation take the following actions:

- 12 1. Establish a curfew so that freight trains would not operate between 11:00 PM and
13 6:30 AM in order to preserve and protect the quality of life of the citizens of
14 Warwick, and the State of Rhode Island, and
- 15 2. Require the implementation of a computer system that would provide real-time
16 train departures so that Amtrak could hold a passenger train while a freight train
17 passes on dangerously narrow tracks in the city.
18

19 The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Rhode Island
20 Department of Transportation, the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, the
21 Senators and Representative elected from the City of Warwick, the Governor, the Town Council
22 of North Kingstown, the Town Council of East Greenwich, the City Council of Cranston, the City
23 Council of Providence, the Town Council of North Providence, and the City Council of
24 Pawtucket.

25 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN MEROLLA

COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL