

CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
RHODE ISLAND



CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

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No. 59 City Council Special Meeting, Wednesday, April 26, 1989, 7:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.)

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IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 18 1989

APPROVED:

PRESIDING *Rose M. Mendonca* CLERK

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

NICHOLAS W. EASTON

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Easton, Councilman Annaldo, Councilwoman Brassil, Councilmen Cola, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fargnoli, Councilmen Farmer, Glavin, Lombardi, Lopes, Petrosinelli, Rollins, Stravato and Councilwoman Young-15.

Absent: 0.

## INVOCATION

The Invocation is given by COUNCILMAN  
DAVID G. DILLON.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COUNCILMAN JOHN H. ROLLINS leads  
the Members of the City Council and the  
Assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance to  
the Flag of the United States of America.

## CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.

The Honorable Rose M. Mendonca  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Madam Clerk:

Pursuant to Section 406 of the Providence Home  
Rule Charter of 1980, I am this day requesting

April 5, 1989 a special meeting of the Providence City Council  
to be held on Wednesday, April 26, 1989, at 7:00  
P.M. in the City Council Chamber to consider the  
following ordinances:

- (A) Budget Message and appropriation  
ordinance setting forth in detail esti-  
mates for the fiscal period beginning  
July 1, 1989 and ending June 30, 1990.

An ordinance making an appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1990.

ment and collection of 1989 taxes, being based on one hundred percent (100%) of the 1989-1990 fiscal year tax collection.

(B) An ordinance establishing the classes of positions, the maximum number of employees, and the number of employees in certain classes in the City Departments and repealing ordinance Chapter 1988-22, approved July 1, 1988.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(C) An ordinance establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and repealing ordinance Chapter 1988-23, approved July 1, 1988.

JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.  
*Mayor of Providence*

Received.

(D) An ordinance providing for the assess-

## FROM THE CITY CLERK

The City Clerk reads the following Warrant with the City Sergeant's Return Endorsed thereon, certifying that he did notify the members of the City Council of the Special Meeting to be held Wednesday, April 26, 1989 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) by personally delivering a copy of the Warrant on April 20, 1989.

To: Ralph Guglielmino, City Sergeant:

period beginning July 1 1989 and ending June 30, 1990.

Whereas, His Honor, Joseph R. Paolino, Jr., Mayor of the City of Providence has, pursuant to Section 406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, requested the City Clerk, in writing, to Call A Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on the 26th day of April A.D., 1989, at 7:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) for the Purpose of Enacting the Following:

An ordinance making an appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1990.

An ordinance establishing the classes of positions, the maximum number of employees and the number of employees in certain classes in the City Departments and repealing ordinance Chapter 1988-22 approved July 1, 1988.

Budget Message and appropriation ordinance setting forth in detail estimates for the fiscal

An ordinance establishing a Compensation

Plan for the City of Providence and repealing ordinance Chapter 1988-23, approved July 1, 1988.

April 20, 1989

An ordinance providing for the assessment and collection of 1989 taxes, being based on one hundred percent (100%) of the 1989-1990 fiscal year tax collection.

*You are therefore*, hereby commanded and required to summon each Member of the City Council to that Special Meeting, as Called.

*Hereof, Fail Not*, and make true return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon.

Given under my hand and Official Seal of the City of Providence, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 20th day of April A.D., 1989.

ROSE M. MENDONCA  
*City Clerk*

I, Ralph Guglielmino, City Sergeant, do hereby certify that I have notified each Member of the City Council of the Special Meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 26, 1989 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) in the Chamber of the City Council, City Hall, Providence, in accordance with the subject Warrant by delivering to each Member a copy thereof.

RALPH GUGLIELMINO  
*City Sergeant*

Received.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET OF**  
**REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

**AT EASE**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT EASTON declares the Council Stand at Ease at 7:25 o'clock P.M. to Reconvene at the Call of the Chair and Appoints Majority Leader Glavin and Minority Leader Farmer to escort HIS HONOR, MAYOR JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR., to the Chamber of the City Council.

HIS HONOR MAYOR JOSEPH R. PAOLINO  
JR., Presents:

April 26, 1989

The Honorable Members of the City Council  
Providence City Hall  
23 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Council Members:

Tonight I present for your consideration a budget that reflects five years of prudent fiscal decisions, professional management, and responsible, honest government. The 1989-1990 budget is very tightly balanced. It maintains some programs and services at existing levels while enhancing others, but it's a budget that must be closely managed.

Today is my fifth anniversary as Mayor, and it's my 34th birthday. I guess we could call it an "Anniversary Budget" because it symbolizes all we've accomplished together — this City Council and this Mayor for five years. At a time of extraordinary Federal deficits, and a State budget that's in transition — we, in Providence, have held the line. Five years ago today — at 29 years old — I walked into the Mayor's office alone, past State Troopers carrying out impounded records. I found a government in chaos — and along with my good friends on the City Council, we set out to change it. Five years ago we worked long, hard hours to set a new standard of responsible, honest fiscal leadership and to develop a controlled spending plan that maximized services with limited resources. We worked to make Rhode Island proud of its Capital City again, and we did it. We restored our bond rating to an "A", eliminated a \$6 million deficit two years ahead of schedule, and put a modern, effective government to work for the people.

There was no magic to good government. It came when we brought competent professionals together in an honest atmosphere to find creative solutions to difficult problems. It came when we

worked together — when we put aside differences and did what was right for the taxpayers of Providence.

Tonight I'm looking to the future, and I can say that responsible fiscal decisions and your dedicated leadership have set Providence apart from other cities, from the state, and from the nation; and that's the best birthday gift I could have.

We can announce tonight that — at least in Providence — government spending is under control, the City is operating without a deficit — programs, personnel, and services are being maintained and enhanced, and we're doing it all with no tax increase.

This is a tribute not to you or me — not to the dedication and hard work of a professional administration that changed government over the last five years. It's a tribute to the thousands of taxpayers in Providence who work long, hard hours to make ends meet — the seniors and single mothers, the old families whose parents and grandparents passed on their dreams, the new families who have come here to find a dream, and the hundreds of hard working men and women with whom I've shared my dreams for the future. They're the winners. This is their victory, not ours.

Like I've said, "there's no magic to good government," but — let's remember — our economic future in Providence is precariously balanced between bloated federal deficits on one side, and burgeoning state budget problems on the other. Last week I was told that the City had 12 bidders on Providence notes when — at one time — we were lucky to have any. We can announce that these notes have the highest rating from Moody's Investors Service — MIG1 — the highest rating they can have. National financial leaders have recognized our success, and we've seen a dramatic increase in competitive bidding on City contracts because local business leaders now know that honest government in Providence is back. These are the benefits of responsible fiscal management in Providence, but our economic

future depends on equally responsible federal and state management.

Without a tax increase this year we can afford a budget increase from \$217,617,058 to \$233,040,088. That's an increase of 4.5 percent for the city and a 10.7 percent increase for education. We can even afford a 37 percent — \$2.7 million — increase in our Blue Cross payment from \$7.3 million to \$10 million. But we can't afford further reductions in federal programs to the city. We can't afford reductions in state aid, and we certainly can't afford continued annual increases of 37 percent in Blue Cross costs for municipal workers. To address the potential problem of ever-increasing health care costs, tonight I'm calling on the League of Cities and Towns to form a Special Study Commission on health care options for municipalities.

It's not prosperity that trickled down from the Federal Government. It's burden — a growing fiscal burden on the taxpayers of cities like Providence that are trying to emerge from years of neglect and mismanagement. But I'm concerned about holding the line in future budgets without comparable commitments from the federal and state government. In Providence we've made tough decisions and difficult choices. We invested a little vision, some talent, and a lot of time, and the dividends are bigger than any of us expected. Now we're one of America's Hottest cities — one of America's best places to live and work.

The budget I propose tonight is tight, lean, and balanced; it's honest, conservative, and manageable. On the revenue side it includes an increase in state aid, but does not include additional revenues from increases in fees and adjustments which could come from pending legislation and the recommendations of the Alternative Revenue Committee that we established last year. It includes an increased collection rate from 90 to 90.5 percent for an additional \$700,000. With enhanced collection procedures and computerized monitoring, we will more efficiently trace and settle current and delinquent accounts. What the City is owed it intends to collect.

On the expenditure side this budget provides a 10.7 percent increase in the school department's budget that finally allows the school board to do what its always wanted to do: implement new educational programs rather than try to maintain underfunded old ones. Tonight, I am pleased to announce that this budget includes \$375,000 for a new middle school for students at risk of dropping out. This creative program is an urban school collaborative between Providence, Pawtucket, and East Providence and is designed to increase dropout prevention. With plans to attract new teachers, a study of year-round education for at-risk students, a magnet school to encourage students to become teachers in Providence, and funds to help plan for future needs, we have finally turned the corner in our schools. This budget gives education in Providence a head start. No longer are we putting just enough new money into old programs to keep up. Now we're putting what's needed into the best programs to win.

The budget also includes a state-of-the-art communication system for the Police Department that allows officers to stay on the street and file reports by telephone rather than come back to headquarters, and those officers will be on the street in 30 new police cars bringing the total of new cars under this administration to 130. The Fire Department needs the best. This budget maintains a table of organization that more than meets the needs of our neighborhoods. It provides for increased, on-the-scene radio communication capability to ensure maximum emergency protection. This budget also provides \$55,000 to re-open a neighborhood library in Olneyville and includes an increase of \$136,000 in library funding, for a total commitment of over \$1.7 million. We can announce tonight for the first time — under this budget — the City's pension will be fully funded at 100 percent and in accordance with accepted accounting and actuarial principles. We're announcing tonight that — because the first year of the new Providence Housing Court was so successful — we're adding one more Housing Court Judge for more housing justice in the neighborhoods.

As I said, this is a responsible, lean budget that maintains services at existing levels and increases them only where necessary. We can maintain services and keep Providence moving steadily forward — without a tax increase. But, let me emphasize again that a lean budget must be closely managed. Any reductions in state aid, further increases in health care costs, or a slowdown in the economy could affect future fiscal stability. No government leader wants to raise taxes. No government leader wants to eliminate services or personnel, and we haven't. But government leaders must be mindful of the value of every tax dollar — where it comes from and what it means to families who've earned it. I will not spend one extra cent of a taxpayers hard earned dollars.

While the Federal Government faces a huge deficit — while the State wrestles with a growing financial crisis — while other cities are raising taxes to maintain services — we are holding the tax line and even increasing services. We've succeeded because this City Council and this administration have worked together for five

years and built a strong administrative record not because we're special, but because we recognized that Providence is special. I remember five years ago when the people had lost confidence in government. I was 29 then and a little scared. Five years have gone by. They've gone by quickly and we've balanced every budget, run surpluses every year, increased services, modernized government, we've eliminated the deficit, raised the bond rating, restored parks, and schools, and we've even moved rivers. We did it because we replaced what we found with a professional government that respected the value of a tax dollar and understood the profound responsibility that comes with leadership, and thanks to you, the people have confidence in government again.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.  
*Mayor of Providence*

Received.

## RECONVENTION

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT EASTON reconvenes the City Council at 7:45 o'clock P.M. and directs the Clerk to Call the Roll to ascertain if there is a quorum present:**

**Present:** Council President Easton, Councilman Annaldo, Councilwoman Brassil, Councilmen Cola, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fargnoli, Councilmen Farmer,

Glavin, Lombardi, Lopes, Petrosinelli, Rolins, Stravato and Councilwoman Young—  
15.

**Absent:** 0.

## PRESENTATION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE

**HIS HONOR, MAYOR PAOLINO Presents:** motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN DILLON.

An Ordinance making an appropriation for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1990.

The motion to Refer, is Sustained.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, on \_\_\_\_\_

## PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES

**COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, COUNCILMAN DILLON and COUNCILWOMAN FARG-NOLI (By Request):**

An Ordinance providing for the Assessment and Collection of 1989 Taxes, being based on One Hundred Percent (100%) of the 1989-1990 Fiscal Year Tax Collection.

An Ordinance establishing the Classes of Positions, the Maximum Number of Employees and the Number of Employees in certain classes in the City Departments and repealing Ordinance Chapter 1988-22 Approved July 1, 1988.

Severally Referred to the Committee on Finance, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO and COUNCILMAN DILLON.

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An Ordinance establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and repealing Ordinance Chapter 1988-23 Approved July 1, 1988.

The motion to Refer, is Sustained.

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## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN DILLON, the City Council adjourns at 7:55 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.).

*Rose M. Mendonca*

*City Clerk*



