

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 332

Approved July 31, 2025

WHEREAS, The WNBA's Connecticut Sun franchise, owned by the Mohegan Tribe since 2003, is currently exploring the sale and potential relocation of the team; and

WHEREAS, This past March, Providence demonstrated its capacity and enthusiasm for hosting high-profile basketball events by successfully hosting multiple rounds of the 2025 NCAA March Madness tournament, drawing in thousands of fans and national attention to the city; and

WHEREAS, Providence boasts a deep and successful basketball legacy, including the Providence Steamrollers (a founding BAA/NBA franchise), two Final Four appearances by the Providence College Friars and being home to the vibrant Amica Mutual Pavilion, a 12,410-seat, modern arena with a track record for hosting major basketball events; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee recently toured the Amica Mutual Pavilion and met with a potential new owner of the team to discuss the possibility of relocating the team to Providence, and Providence Mayor Brett Smiley has publicly expressed his enthusiasm for bringing the franchise to the city; and

WHEREAS, Relocating the Connecticut Sun to Providence aligns with the WNBA's mission of expanding into large, engaged markets, offers opportunities for community outreach, youth clinics, and strengthened women's sports visibility and presents an economic and cultural benefit for Providence and the wider region.

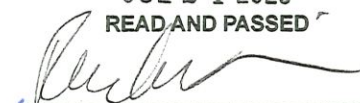
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council supports the efforts to facilitate the relocation of the Connecticut Sun to Providence, encourages coordination between the City of Providence, the State of Rhode Island, and public and private partners to ensure The AMP and related facilities meet WNBA's operational requirements and extends its commendation to the Mohegan Tribe, potential investors, and the WNBA for considering Providence as a viable and enthusiastic host market for Women's basketball; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of this resolution, copies be sent to the Office of Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee, Providence Mayor Brett Smiley, the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority, the Mohegan Tribal Council, and WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 24 2025

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT


TINA L. MASTROSIMONE, CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

Date: 7/31/25