

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 427

Approved May 21, 1975

WHEREAS, there have been frequent acts of vandalism, fires set and windows broken by children leaving the Nathan Bishop Middle School, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for better crime prevention through educational programs, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for better police protection when this school lets out at approximately 2:30 P.M. each day, and

WHEREAS, it is of the utmost interest both for the school children to learn respect for other people's property and rights as a way of developing greater dignity and self-respect for themselves, and

WHEREAS, the neighborhood and community needs protection for their households and safety,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Providence School Committee and the Providence Police Department undertake a study and an immediate program to help reduce, control, and eliminate vandalism from children who leave the Nathan Bishop Middle School.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 15 1975

READ AND PASSED

Robert J. Gaylor
PRES.
Vincent Crespo
CLERK



MAY 21 1975

Vincent Crespo

Councilman Beachman
and
Councilman Proctor,
they request

Mr. C. A. B.

Mr. C. A. B.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

150 WASHINGTON STREET

PROVIDENCE, R. I. 02903

CHARLES M. BERNARDO
SUPERINTENDENT

June 16, 1975

Mr. Vincent Vespia
City Clerk
Providence City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Vespia: RE: City Council Resolution No. 427

With reference to your request for information on an appropriate remedial response to this resolution, please be advised that a meeting to deal with this matter was held at the home of Mrs. Sarah Keegan, 10 Belair Street, on Tuesday, June 10, 1975 from 4:00 P. M. to 6:00 P. M. In attendance were Councilman William Bradshaw, Captain Cunningham, Head of the Juvenile Division, Providence Police Department, Mr. Jarvis Jones, Principal of Nathan Bishop Middle School, and Ms. Mary C. O'Brien, Segment Chief.

The discussion was primarily an airing of complaints about the actions of a small number of students traveling the route home between 2:20 P. M. and 2:40 P. M. during certain times of the year--particularly a series of two or three warm spring days. Many criticisms were raised as to the manner in which resident complaints were handled by the Providence Police Department. Captain Cunningham brought the record of complaints from residents of the immediate area over the last month. The reports listed under six cases of vandalism and three grass fires.

The residents were told by both Mr. Jones and Ms. O'Brien that the school would cooperate in the following ways:

1. Conduct large and small group sessions with the students to deal with the issue of expected behavior when walking home from school;
2. Increase the emphasis on this subject in the human relations specialist-student daily interactions at the school;
3. Assist the Juvenile Officers in any way possible consistent with Davies-Brickell policy and regulation.

Captain Cunningham agreed to increase the surveillance in the area at dismissal time to the extent possible. He agreed to investigate the allegations of improperly handled resident complaints.

The residents felt that they were not receiving a "fair share" of the protection their tax dollar supports. They wished to meet separately to formulate more specific recommendations for corrective actions. Another meeting with the police and school departments is to be called by Mrs. Keegan.

The residents left the meeting realizing that the solution is much more complex than the one initially offered: Resident goes to the school, proceeds from classroom to classroom, recognizes the individual causing the vandalism, police department pursues appropriate action.

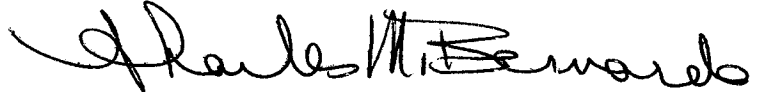
Mr. Vincent Vespia

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June 16, 1975

Mr. Jones and Ms. O'Brien shall continue to work with this group to provide the resources of the school department within defined policy and regulations to assist in the resolution of this serious problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles M. Bernardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being more prominent and the last name "Bernardo" following in a similar style.

Charles M. Bernardo
Superintendent of Schools

CMB:jc