

CITY OF PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND



CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 99 City Council Special Meeting, Monday, May 2, 1994, 6:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.)

PRESIDING

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JAMES A. PETROSINELLI

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 19 1994

APPROVED:

Michael R. Clement
CLERK

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, DeLuca, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fagnoli, Councilmen Fenton, Glavin, Lombardi, Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Rollins, Councilwomen Williams and Young—14.

Absent: Councilman Iglizzo—1.

(C) An ordinance establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and repealing ordinance Chapter 1993-23, approved July 30, 1993.

(D) An ordinance providing for the assessment and collection of 1994 taxes, being based one hundred percent (100%) of the 1994-1995 fiscal year tax collection.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor of Providence

Received.

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 Monday, May 2, 1994, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) by personally delivering a copy of the Warrant on April 29, 1994.

April 28, 1994

TO RALPH GUGLIELMINO, CITY SERGEANT

WHEREAS, His Honor, Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Mayor of the City of Providence has, pursuant to Sections 406 and 803 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, has requested the City Clerk, in writing to Call a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on the 2nd day of May A.D., 1994, at 6:00 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, 1995.

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 1993-24, approved July 30, 1993.

An Ordinance Establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1993-23, approved July 30, 1993.

An Ordinance Providing for the Assessment and Collection of 1994 taxes, being based One Hundred Percent (100%) of the 1994-1995 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 28th Day of April, A.D., 1994.

MICHAEL R. CLEMENT
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 Monday, May 2, 1994, at 6:00 o'clock

NEW BUSINESS

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

1994-95 BUDGET ADDRESS

VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR., MAYOR

MAY 2, 1994

Council President Petrosinelli, honorable members of the Providence City Council, ladies and gentlemen:

I rise to this podium at a time of great promise for the City of Providence.

We are casting off the chains that imprison other cities. We are meeting the challenges facing urban America, where other cities have failed. We are giving new life . . . new hope . . . new promise to a city that is older than the republic. This is our opportunity for greatness.

If we are to succeed, we must satisfactorily address the issues that are most important to our people:

Affordable taxes . . . safe streets . . . good schools . . . strong neighborhoods . . . vibrant artistic and cultural life.

We are making impressive progress on every front.

*Safe streets? A recent study found that Providence is the **safest** city in America with the exception of Honolulu. Since 1990, the rate of violent crime in Providence has **decreased** by 31 percent.

But we must do more. We must take the crime rate even lower.

To this end, my budget includes funding for more than 50 additional police officers, including 14 community police officers.

It also includes funding for the Rhode Island Gun Court, a powerful new weapon we designed to put gun-wielding criminals behind bars. We are going to take a very tough stand on gun-related violence in Providence. Our message is simple: If you carry a gun and you commit a crime, you're going to jail. Period.

*Good schools? Providence is taking the lead in demanding that our children be given their constitutional right to an equal education. Judge Needham, in his landmark decision, affirmed everything you and I have been saying, and fighting for, these past four years.

The new state program known as Guaranteed Student Entitlement will give our children the same opportunity as children born in the green and prosperous suburbs. Providence is slated to receive almost 80 million dollars in additional school aid in the coming years. A whole new world will open for our children.

Thanks to GSE, we will be able to spend more per pupil on instruction than any other school system—not less than everybody else, as is now the case.

This is a revolutionary change in the education of our young people. We have fought for many years to bring about this change. Providence is the heart of Rhode Island. A great deal of the wealth of this state is produced in the capital city. We have demanded our fair share of the state revenue that is distributed to the cities and towns. At last, we are being heard.

*Providence is a great city because it is a center of culture and artistic expression. The arts, education and entertainment are flourishing right now in the historic part of Providence we call "Downcity." Johnson & Wales University is building a new campus center on Weybosset Street; the URI College of Continuing Education will move to a completely refurbished Shepard Building; the Roger Williams Law School will establish offices on Washington Street; AS220 is creating a new center for artists on Empire Street, Trinity Rep is financially stable and artistically productive; the new Grace Park is being developed on Westminster Street; and Mathewson Street will be refurbished and become a new gateway to the Downcity District. City government has been involved with every one of these projects.

Safe streets . . . good schools . . . strong neighborhoods . . . culture and the arts: We're making progress on every front. But all of these efforts ultimately depend on one issue: the ability to provide city services at a price our taxpayers can afford.

With enormous effort on our part, we have met our obligations to the Providence taxpayer. Even though the tax base has declined by 140 million dollars in the last four years. Even though our school costs have risen dramatically as we've added 3,000 students in four years. Even though the state budget has been severely impacted by the recession.

Despite these obstacles, we have not raised taxes for two years in a row. With an agreement last Friday to sell the Port of Providence for 16 million dollars, I can confidently add that we will end both of these years with balanced budgets and small surpluses.

The Port agreement is a win-win for the city. By selling to a Texas investment company, we will receive the full 16 million dollars we had budgeted. The Texas company will then lease the Port to the Providence Redevelopment Agency, which will select the future operator of the Port. After 30 years, the PRA will purchase the Port for a dollar.

At a time when many in the state are talking about alternative uses for the Port, it is important for the city to retain control. Make no mistake about it: the people of Providence, this Council and the Mayor will control the destiny of the Port — and no one else.

Our record in Providing tax relief to the Providence property-owner is one of the best in the state.

Since fiscal 1991, the tax levy of the City of Providence has risen by **only six percent**. Six percent in three years.

Only two other communities in the state beat that record. For all Rhode Island cities and towns, excluding Providence, the property-tax levy rose by 16 percent — almost **triple** the Providence rate. This is a record of which we can all be justifiably proud.

And what about the year to come? Once again, we will have to await the adoption of the state budget, in late June or early July, to be entirely certain of our budgetary position.

However, it is already clear that our voices have been heard by those in state government. Many of you have joined me in the crusade for educational equity. We have also sought compensation for the services the city provides to tax-exempt institutions. At last, our efforts are reaping rewards for the taxpayers of this city.

In the Governor's proposed budget, all forms of school aid for Providence are due to rise by 20 million dollars. Governor Sundlun also proposed full funding of the PILOT Program, which will bring an additional 6 million dollars to Providence on behalf of tax-exempt colleges and hospitals. As a result, we expect state aid to Providence to grow by 26 million dollars.

Once again, these are revolutionary changes that are taking place. Four years ago, property taxes represented 63 percent of the city budget. In the coming year, they will be 54 percent. We're

All for the purpose of retaining our position as the business center of the region. The emerging city is a pleasing blend of new and historic architecture. Providence is re-establishing itself as a river front city—its east and west sides linked by an impressive array of river crossings and river walks.

Of course, we must make progress in the neighborhoods as well as in the downtown. And here is where we have the greatest reason for confidence. Providence is finally being given the

resources it needs to strengthen families, strengthen communities, and create new opportunity for our people.

The future is ours to create. we will accomplish great deeds. We will preside over a city reborn. We will march into a new century with renewed confidence in our ancient and ever-resplendent city.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE

**HIS HONOR, MAYOR VINCENT A.
CIANCI, JR., PRESENTS:**

An Ordinance Making an Appropriation for the
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1995.

PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSINELLI
(By Request):**

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 1993-24, approved July 30, 1993.

An Ordinance Establishing a Compensation

Plan for the City of Providence and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1993-23, approved July 30, 1993.

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Severally Referred to Committee on



May 2]

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