

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 222

Approved July 9, 2020

WHEREAS, On June 23, 2020, the City Council Finance Committee hosted a public hearing regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of the nine-hour hearing, the Finance Committee received feedback from well over one hundred Providence residents calling on the Council to defund the police department and provide more social service programs to help city residents in crisis; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Law §42-28.1 et. seq. establishes the incentive pay program by which municipalities can reimburse police officers for obtaining education credits; and

WHEREAS, While officers can receive reimbursement for classes in the behavioral sciences, those classes are only eligible for reimbursement provided that the officer is enrolled in a program to obtain a degree in law, law enforcement, and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, Expanding tuition reimbursement to cover degrees obtained in behavioral sciences such as social work, psychology, public health, and other social service related fields will provide avenues for police officers to obtain a more rounded education which they can then employ when responding to crisis situations and interacting with the general public.

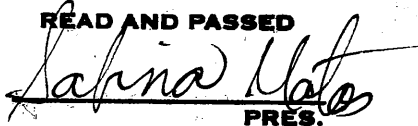
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby requests that the General Assembly review the current state laws surrounding education reimbursement for police officers in order to expand the number of eligible degrees that qualify for tuition reimbursement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the Providence Delegation, as well as the Speaker of the House and the Senate President.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 02 2020

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor
Date: 7/9/20