

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 407

Approved December 11, 2020

WHEREAS, In October 2020, the Rhode Island Public Health Institute in collaboration with the City of Providence Healthy Communities Office sponsored by the Hotspot Community Overdose Engagement Grants and the Rhode Island Department of Health, published a report titled “Downtown Providence Overdose Hotspot Assessment & Plan” and;

WHEREAS, According to the report, from 2016 to 2019, Providence had the highest percentage of opioid overdose-related Emergency Department visits (32%) and EMS runs (31%) in the State of Rhode Island, and;

WHEREAS, A high percentage of overdoses in the city (41%) occurred in public settings such as streets, parks, and parking lots; particularly in three overdose hotspots neighborhoods including Downtown, Olneyville, and the West End; and;

WHEREAS, Most people experiencing overdose in Downtown Providence were between the ages of 25-44; in areas of Kennedy Plaza and Burnside Park followed by Providence Place Mall and lastly by areas surrounding Kennedy Plaza and I-95, and;

WHEREAS, In 2019, nearly 85% of overdose deaths involved at least one of four substances: illicitly-manufactured fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, or methamphetamine.; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, Rhode Island ranked 11th in fatal overdoses in the country with Providence being disproportionately impacted by high rates of overdose, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby acknowledges the importance of overdose data reporting and commits to further explore obtaining a sustained funding source and robust financial resources at the neighborhood, city, and state level to address overdose services and prevention Downtown, particularly in Kennedy Plaza and Burnside Park;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby recognizes the importance of the evidence-based interventions outlined in the report, including harm reduction centers to prevent fatal overdoses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council in coordination with the City Administration, The Rhode Island Department of Health and other community partners hereby reaffirms our commitment to tackling the public health crisis of drug overdoses in our communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council and City Administration work towards exploring creative partnerships with The Providence Place Mall and The Downtown Improvement District (DID) relating to the delivery of harm reduction services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of Providence, The Downtown Improvement District (DID), the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Public Health Institute, Dr. Amy Nunn; Managing Principal of Systems Change Strategies Michael Beauregard, Project Weber/RENEW Annajane Yolken; Executive Director of Project Weber/ RENEW Colleen Daley-Ndoye; The Providence Foundation, West Elmwood Housing 02907 Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Program Manager Dominique Resendes; President and CEO of Amos House Eileen Hayes; and the Providence Healthy Communities Office.

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC 03 2020

READ AND PASSED, *AS Amended*

Sabrina Mato
PRES.

Kam Selke
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]
Mayor
Date: *12/11/20*