



D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL  
January 5, 1959

### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL

The Chair calls for nominations for President of the City Council and Mr. Wexler nominates Edward P. Quigley, this nomination is seconded by Mr. D'Abate.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Prete, seconded by Mr. Aiello, it is voted nominations be closed, and the City Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Quigley as President of the City Council.

The Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Quigley as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares Edward P. Quigley duly elected President of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1961.

  
D. EVERETT WHELAN,  
CITY CLERK.



D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL  
January 5, 1959


### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF CITY COUNCIL

The Chair calls for nominations for the office of President Pro Tempore of the City Council and Mr. Boyle nominates Jerry Lorenzo, this nomination is seconded by Mr. Alprin.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. McOsker, seconded by Mr. Aiello, it is voted that nominations be closed and the Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Lorenzo as President Pro Tempore of the City Council.

The Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Lorenzo as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares Jerry Lorenzo duly elected President Pro Tempore of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1961.

  
D. EVERETT WHELAN,  
CITY CLERK.



D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL  
January 5, 1959


### ELECTION OF CITY CLERK

The Chair calls for nominations for the office of City Clerk and Mr. Gallogly nominates D. Everett Whelan as City Clerk and this nomination is seconded by Mr. Matera.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted that nominations be closed and the First Deputy City Clerk be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Whelan as City Clerk.

The First Deputy City Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Whelan as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares D. Everett Whelan duly elected City Clerk for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1961.

  
D. EVERETT WHELAN,  
CITY CLERK.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, D. EVERETT WHELAN, do

solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States  
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge  
the duties of the office of

City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

D. Everett Whelan

or

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 5th day of January, A. D. 1959,

I did administer unto D. EVERETT WHELAN

duly appointed to the office of

City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds



D. Everett Whelan  
City Clerk

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia  
First Deputy  
William E. McWilliams  
Second Deputy

January 5, 1959

To the Honorable the City Council  
of the City of Providence.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions  
of Section 37, Chapter 832 of the Public Laws  
of 1940, I have this day appointed Vincent  
Vespia of Providence, as First Deputy City  
Clerk and William E. McWilliams of Providence,  
as Second Deputy City Clerk.

Respectfully,

D. Everett Whelan,  
City Clerk

DEW:gfn

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 5 1959

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

  
CLERK

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, VINCENT VESPIA, do  
solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States  
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge  
the duties of the office of  
First Deputy City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

Vincent Vespia

or

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor  
do hereby certify that on the 5th day of January, A. D. 1959,  
I did administer unto VINCENT VESPIA  
duly appointed to the office of  
First Deputy City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, WILLIAM E. McWILLIAMS, do

*solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States  
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge  
the duties of the office of*  
Second Deputy City Clerk

*to the best of my ability.*

*William E. McWilliams*

~

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

*do hereby certify that on the* 5th *day of* January, *A. D.* 1959,

*I did administer unto* WILLIAM E. McWILLIAMS

*duly appointed to the office of*

Second Deputy City Clerk

*the above subscribed oath.*

*Walter H. Reynolds*

Inaugural Address of Mayor Walter H. Reynolds - January 5, 1959

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TO THE HONORABLE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE:

Gentlemen:

Some weeks ago the voters of the City of Providence by a decisive plurality entrusted to us the operation of their municipal government for the next two years. I know that I speak for you Gentlemen of the City Council, as well as for myself, when I say that we are grateful for the opportunity for continued service which has been afforded to us.

In a very practical demonstration of confidence the action of voters placed a stamp of approval upon the record of this administration to date. This phrase "to date" requires a most emphatic repetition.

While we shall not forget what we have learned from the past . . . while we are confident that we possess the skills of government honed and sharpened by experience. . . we will not content ourselves with the accomplishments of yester-year. Rather, it behooves us to regard ourselves as a new and vigorous administration, seeking new and better solutions to the problems which lie before us. We must be alert to fresh ideas. We must reject the approach which is merely routine.



The processes of government - - like those of life itself - - are never static. The alternatives are progress or decay. We have but one intelligent choice. We must be constructive. We must be creative. Above all, we must be courageous.

### EMPLOYMENT

Industry and employment are matters of obvious concern to the people of Providence. Insofar as it is within the legitimate scope of government to do so, every effort must be extended to assure a climate which is industrially attractive.

First, we must continue to offer good government. As in the past, it must be honest and efficient. More positively, we must understand and be amenable to new procedures and to new methods to simplify and to improve municipal services. Good schools and playgrounds, highway and traffic improvements, a high standard of municipal housekeeping - - all are helpful in establishing an acceptable industrial environment. This is the basic - - the primary task of municipal government.

When this task is carried out efficiently, industrial investment and industrial employment require the entrance and the participation of capital and labor in that sequence of events which characterizes the normal and traditional operation of a free economy in a free society.

Beyond this there are certain specific opportunities for which this administration deserves a measure of credit - - opportunities which require further extensive development by direct municipal action.

First, there is the possibility of further expanding the port-oriented industries at the Providence Municipal Wharf. Two major developments have occurred here recently, as you Gentlemen know - - events which could have a significant influence upon the economic life of the City.

The New England Portland Cement Company's lease of an area at the City Wharf for the purpose of constructing a bulk storage and packaging plant can be expected ultimately to bring added revenue to the City of Providence and more jobs to the people of this Community. This development will become of increasing importance as the national program of highway construction is expanded.

It will also be important from the point of view of recent technological advances which indicate that an ever-increasing amount of pre-cast concrete will be used in major buildings. The establishment of the Providence Dock Corporation is similarly of importance. Initiated to carry on a bulk shipping operation in phosphate, sulphur and clay and other materials this firm will service the increasing demand for chemicals in New England industry.

At the present time all of the berthing space at the Municipal Wharf is in use or has been contracted for. Immediate study, therefore, should be given to the possibility of extending the wall in order to create additional space at the harborside as well as a new land area which can be devoted to further economic uses. To finance this extension we have a two million dollar bond authority, some part of which could be made available for this purpose.

The Providence Municipal Wharf is one opportunity. Another opportunity lies in our municipal program of redevelopment for industrial re-uses. The West River Industrial Park, with which you Gentlemen are all familiar, has already begun to display dramatic evidence of its usefulness. Nearly half the area is under option to large industrial firms. In late winter of this year or in early spring, construction by Intalex, the first of the area's occupants, will be underway.

It is currently estimated that the net fifty acres, available here for industrial re-use, will eventually add a net fourteen million dollars of assessed valuation to the City's tax base and provide perhaps as many as two thousand jobs, at least a part of which will be new employment. An application is now pending before the appropriate federal agency for a second industrial re-use project at Randall Square to more than double the area available at West River. Recognizing that the federal government is the prime mover in the matter of new projects, we must, nevertheless, push this Randall Square Project as rapidly as possible in order to expand that future industrial growth of which we already see the promise in West River. To aid us in the matter I believe we can look to the new congress for a new housing bill with a generous appropriation for urban renewal.

On the matter of an Industrial Commission for Providence I intend at this time to reserve my judgement. I cannot but think there is a fundamental inconsistency in multiple commissions. Where, as in the present case, it is possible to work through a well-staffed and able state agency, duplication and excessive costs can be avoided. This would not be the case if independent commissions were to be established - - here or in others of the thirty-nine towns and cities in Rhode Island.

URBAN RENEWAL

Allied to the foregoing efforts, and necessary also for diverse other reasons, is an over-all program of urban renewal.

There are several aspects of this program which can be expected to evolve successfully during the next two years, and which will have a considerable effect upon the efforts of our city to meet the functional requirements for working and living in a mid-twentieth century environment.

The Downtown Master Plan, a project to develop new life and new values for the central business area, is due for completion in the Fall of 1959. Financed by a Demonstration Grant of approximately eighty thousand dollars, obtained from the Federal Government through the efforts of you Gentlemen of the City Council, as well as by private subscription and staff time provided by the City of Providence, it is the purpose of this study to determine "the extent to which civic and business groups interested in the downtown area can participate practically and constructively with an official planning agency and the city government in developing plans, policies and programs for the renewal of the downtown neighborhood."

I detect a new attitude of resolution - - of constructive determination - - on the part of the business and industrial community in the downtown area. They look to the future. They are resolved to make that future a bright one. They are participating in the research and in the planning for this area. They are providing a large measure of leadership which we can expect will continue and develop further. A renewed downtown will mean better business, more jobs and a sounder tax base. The City of Providence is vitally interested in all of these objectives. I urge you Gentlemen to follow the development of this plan with the keenest attention.

Many of the measures to be recommended will have to do with private ownership, and will of necessity, be privately financed. Other measures will lie in the public domain and will require municipal attention. This administration pledges to do its part in the over-all effort to revitalize a prosperous downtown economy.

To a very great degree the potential for success in a sound plan for downtown has been assured by the efforts of you Gentlemen of the City Council, by the efforts of many interested citizens, particularly the Mayor's Hurricane Advisory Committee, in securing a "go-ahead" on the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier. The Congress has made \$600,000 available and the engineering on this project is now proceeding under the direction of the Army's Corps of Engineers.

In this matter we can afford, I think, some satisfaction in the progress which has been made. The day has not yet been entirely won in this matter, however. We must continue to work - - and to work industriously - - to keep informed of the progress of the plans, and to insure that the Congress will appropriate the money for construction.

There has been a general understanding that the local thirty percent share of construction costs, which may amount to something in the vicinity of six million dollars will be shared on an equal basis by the State, the Municipality and the owners of property in the district to be benefited.

A second demonstration grant for urban renewal purposes is now reaching a conclusion on the East Side. The so-called College Hill Study has been completed and is being reviewed in Washington. In this grant - - as in all grants for demonstration purposes - - the primary intent is to pioneer in technique, to develop a method for dealing with the subject matter for which the grant was devised. Secondly - - and more important for the City of Providence - - the intent is to develop plans and policies for the consideration of the citizens and of the City Government. The purpose of this particular grant is to study the problem of "developing a feasible program of preservation, restoration and renewal in an Historic Area."

When the final report is available for consideration, you Gentlemen of the Council will no doubt be presented with a number of recommendations for the purpose of carrying the plans into effect. You will have to make difficult but necessary decisions- - among other things as to what extent it is legally feasible and practical to "preserve and restore" an historical area in a city -- the chief problem of which is the achievement of twentieth century standards.

Other aspects of renewal also are developing with encouraging success.

The freeway program of the State of Rhode Island has in recent months been progressing rapidly and we hope that it will continue to do so. In addition to providing a modern and essential means of moving traffic it is also, in many locations, changing the face of our city - - and very much for the better.

One needs only to recall the previous appearance of the South Water Street area or the Huntington Avenue junk yard district to appreciate the considerable renewal which accompanies freeway construction. I have mentioned redevelopment previously in connection with industrial renewal. In the coming two years, however, in addition to the industrial program, redevelopment will have in progress the renewal of a considerable commercial and residential area at Lippitt Hill and a mixed commercial, residential and public-use area surrounding Central and Classical High Schools.



Inspections under the Minimum Standards Housing Ordinance, to which you Gentlemen gave your approval some two years ago, have now been underway for more than a year and a half. In this time more than seven thousand dwelling units have been inspected. In those units having some substandard features, prompt corrections have been undertaken in the large majority of cases. This should be most heartening to us, for middle-aged housing - - which is the greater part of residential Providence - - will find a new extension upon life and remain serviceable for many years to come.

To supplement such major renewal efforts as those I have cited, many relatively minor -- but important -- renewal measures should be undertaken also. Clearance of litter and debris, sidewalk improvements and landscaping of areas in public use are examples of these. To accomplish these objectives I have requested the City Plan Commission to undertake a Master Plan for City Beautification.

This plan, in report form, will be available to you Gentlemen within the next few months, and knowing your interest in a cleaner and more attractive city, I believe that you will welcome it.

## METROPOLITANISM

Interest and speculation on metropolitanism as it affects governmental services and expenditures has increased sharply in recent years. This subject-- with its many ramifications -- is a complex matter. Basically, discussion has centered upon consolidation of functions such as sewer service, water supply and the like, the contention being that such services rendered upon a broad geographical area, disregarding political boundaries, would result in better efficiency, in uniformity, and in economy in the over-all operation. To my knowledge no broad study with sufficient depth in detail has been made locally either to support or to deny these assertions. Possibly something along this order may be forthcoming from the State Fiscal Commission when it presents its report now scheduled for February delivery.

This administration, I am sure, is sympathetic to any possibilities which metropolitanism may offer. We are already -- and have for some years -- been engaged in certain phases of metropolitan service. The Providence Water Supply Board currently serves approximately one-half the population of the State of Rhode Island. The Providence Sewer Treatment Plant accepts a flow some of which originates in Johnston, in North Providence and in Cranston.

Much of the park and recreational system in Providence is metropolitan in nature, examples being Roger Williams Park, the golf course at Triggs Memorial Park, and Neutaconkanut Park. The Providence Public Library, which derives about half of its operating cost from private endowments and half from an appropriation by you Gentlemen of the City Council, actually renders thirty-seven percent of its services to persons residing outside the City of Providence. The Chapin Hospital supported by the City of Providence with aid from a state grant renders more than fifty percent of its services to non-residents.

Our experience with these various phases of metropolitan operations should cause us on this matter to take an attitude at once both optimistic and cautious. I believe that we can -- and should -- subscribe to the idea that a metropolitan approach is the desirable approach, where the ensuing results of such an approach, are mutually beneficial to all of the participants. This offers us, I think, two criteria for analyzing metropolitan proposals. First, in any proposal advanced, are we assured that non-residents who may benefit thereby will pay their full and fair share of capital and operating costs? On this score I see no sound reason why the central city -- which already has financial difficulties aplenty -- should be expected to further subsidize suburban dwellers.

We are currently doing so to a sufficient -- perhaps to an unjustifiable -- extent as in the case of library and hospital services. This viewpoint was seconded recently by the Providence Water Supply Board which instituted a new rate schedule to meet rising costs and to equalize the price of water as between resident and non-resident consumers.

Second, recognizing that we are -- and realistically -- must continue to be competitive with other communities, in the matter of industrial development particularly, how does any proposal advanced affect our ability to attract industry and jobs relative to competition of our immediate neighbors, where land may be cheaper, but services are fewer, or perhaps non-existent? With these criteria for reference, and ever mindful that we have been elected to office to protect and to serve the residents and taxpayers of the City of Providence, let us examine any metropolitan proposals with open minds.

CITY FINANCES

You Gentlemen may recall that, in my address of two years ago, I advised you of my intention to appoint a Revenue Committee to be comprised of outstanding citizens who would be competent to advise us concerning means of securing the new and adequate revenues necessary to operate the municipal government. The full text of the report will be available for our study in published form within a few days. Meanwhile its prior release to the press has acquainted you Gentlemen, as well as all interested citizens, of the principal findings and recommendations.

I MUST INTERJECT AT THIS POINT THAT THE REVENUE REPORT WHICH, AT THE TIME THIS INAUGURAL MESSAGE WAS PREPARED, WAS COMPLETED IN DRAFT AND EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR, HAS BEEN DELAYED TEMPORARILY.

This has been an able and distinguished committee. A thorough and painstaking survey has been prepared by Committee members including your own representative and two economists as well as representatives of business, industry, real estate, banking and labor. Their recommendations deserve -- and I am confident will receive -- the most careful and serious consideration of you Gentlemen of the Council.

I have reported to you on previous occasions that I knew of no means of substantial savings within the framework of this government's operation. While the Committee did not examine the expenditure side of the ledger exhaustively, it is the Committee's conclusion also, that no savings are apparent which can yield sums of any magnitude. I am gratified to find my conclusions supported by this non-partisan panel. This, however, significantly points up the essential fact, namely, that new revenues are imperative to the continuation of good government.

Recommendations made by the Committee affect the tax structure of both the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island. This I think was inevitable.

Traditionally -- everywhere in this great country of ours -- the city has been the "creature of the state" and will continue to be so. Under our constitution and the laws which supplement and support it, the city can never be totally independent. It should be clearly understood that even in the so-called "home-rule" cities which have received so much favorable attention of late, certain permissive powers are retained by the State, specifically those having to do with fiscal matters.

The General Assembly will formally convene for 1959 for the first time tomorrow. That all-important 42nd legislative day, beyond which no measure can be introduced without unanimous consent, is not a great way off in view of the urgent tasks which lie immediately before us in regard to financial matters.

We must review each and every recommendation, always with a view to such questions as: What will it actually produce in new revenue? Will it have the effect of stimulating or of discouraging business and industry? Is the effect upon the home-owner commensurate with the municipal services rendered to the home-owner? Last, but by no means least, does the method by which any or all of these may be imposed, meet the test of fairness and equitability?

These and other questions must be debated and the answers determined to the best of our ability. We cannot postpone or delay. We must settle shortly and definitely upon a revenue program. Ordinances and statutes -- or amendments to both -- will need to be drafted. Where the General Assembly is concerned we have a responsibility to get proposed new legislation into the Assembly's hands as early as possible, so that members of that Body will have a fair and full opportunity to give it their attention.

Recommendations of the State's fiscal commission may also be available early in the legislative session, so that the Committees on the Hill will be busy indeed. Their deliberations should, therefore, be facilitated by early action on our part.

#### MUNICIPAL REPORTING

I believe it is fair to conclude from the foregoing that these will be an important and action-packed two years, both for ourselves and for our citizens.

Attraction of new business and industry, the renewal of an old city, and the emergence of a new city, through the Downtown Plan, College Hill, Redevelopment, Housing Code Enforcement, and City beautification, the revision of the revenue structure to meet the needs and demands of our changing times -- all of these are exciting, but exacting; daring but difficult. They will require more plans, new policies; they will produce differing problems.

We have a debt to those who entrusted us with office. We must seek, not only to conduct our offices with uprightness and probity. We must seek also to keep the people informed. We need not only to work for the people. We need also to work with the people. The best means of accomplishing this end is to see that the people have the facts -- the true, fair, non-partisan facts -- about their government-- its problems, its policies--what its objectives are, and the methods and procedures by which the government hopes to attain these objectives.



This approach requires a style and a standard of reporting more satisfactory -- more informative -- than the annual report which has appeared in the Rhode Islander and the day to day press coverage, which while excellent in themselves have proved insufficient for the task. To supplement the routine flow of information it will be my purpose to present a full half-hour television program on a quarterly basis, outlining in a factual manner the conduct and the course of municipal government in Providence.

These then, Gentlemen, are the highlights. I shall depend upon the members of this Honorable Body for that wise counsel and fine cooperation which have long characterized the harmonious relationship between the legislative and the executive branches of our City government. I have concentrated primarily upon the newer aspects of government and upon those difficulties which loom the largest and most immediate. In so doing it was far from my mind to discount or to minimize that broad range of traditional municipal services upon which we depend for our daily protection, safety and convenience. In looking to an adventurous tomorrow, we shall, with God's grace, faithfully and fully perform the duties of today.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 5 1959

READ:

*Everett Whelan*  
CLERK

Respectfully submitted, Walter H. Reynolds  
Mayor of Providence