



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS
CITY OF PROVIDENCE**

February 22, 1984

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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MERRICK A. COOK, JR.

Superintendent of Parks

Honorable City Council Members
c/o City Clerk's Office
City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 1 1984

READ

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Rosemond CLERK

Dear Honorable Members:

In response to your Resolution No. 104 effective February 13, 1984 regarding Fiscal Year 1984-85 Budget Requests, I am pleased to provide a summary of the Department of Public Parks' projected management techniques to be used for the purpose of economizing.

The major concerns of the Board of Park Commissioners and the Department of Public Parks is to provide the necessary services mandated under the City's Home Rule Charter which has increased the department's responsibilities to include recreation and school sites. The proposed budget is therefore considered modest in terms of the services delivered, and reflects little more than what is necessary to operate the department in an efficient manner efficiently.

Professionalization and privatization will be expanded by the Division of Grounds Maintenance Services this year. By contracting the turf care of the North Burial Ground, we will increase our efficiency during peak seasons, without requiring additional municipal employees.

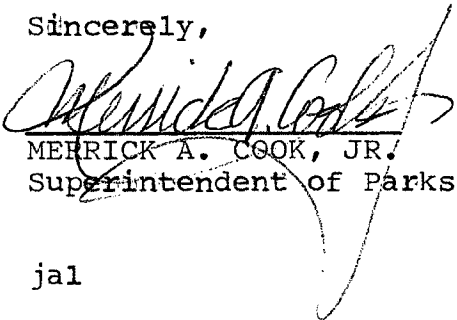
In the Division of Zoological and Security Services we have been mandated by the United States Department of Agriculture to fill our fifteenth zookeeper's position, but we continue to leave our sixteenth authorized position unfunded, for a savings of Seventeen Thousand (\$17,000.00) Dollars. We have enjoyed a savings in our #251 Animal Food Account through careful vendor selection and the use of a commercial type freezer purchased in a previous budget year.

In the Division of Public Programming Services, there will be savings in the reduction in the numbers of cultural arts programming and their associated publicity and printing requirements. This should additionally reduce overtime costs to the Grounds Maintenance Division which provides custodial services during such events.

The primary goal of the Division of Development and Environmental Services will be to continue addressing long-range planning for the reduction of labor intensive methods for the greenhouses and public gardens, as well as the Grounds Maintenance Division. Energy efficiency, preventive maintenance, automatic watering systems, and standardization of site furniture and play equipment are hallmarks of the technical services offered by the division of outside parks, Grounds Maintenance Services, and other divisions of the department. The Master Planning process currently underway and funded through the Emergency Jobs Bill Allocations to the R. I. Historic Preservation Commission and Community Development will further provide for economies and efficiencies through effective long-range planning.

This department will continue to explore additional avenues of economy in management and maintenance to assure the taxpayer of the City of Providence the finest park system possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Merrick A. Cook, Jr.", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MERRICK A. COOK, JR.
Superintendent of Parks

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DEPT. OF JUSTICE
PROVIDENCE, R.I.