

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 401

Approved October 26, 2016

RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council
hereby Authorize Approval of the following Sole Source Contract Award by the
Board of Contract and Supply, in accordance with Section 21-26 of the Code of
Ordinances.


GrowSmartRI
(Water Supply Board)


\$167,040.00

IN CITY COUNCIL


OCT 20 2016

READ AND PASSED

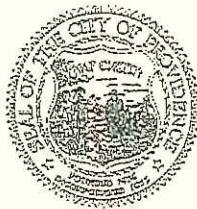

PRES.


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor
Date: 10/26/16

MATTHEW M. CLARKIN, JR.
INTERNAL AUDITOR
25 DORRANCE STREET, ROOM #307
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
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City of Providence, Rhode Island
Office of the Internal Auditor

September 30, 2016

Ms. Lori Hagen
City Clerk's Office
City of Providence
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Lori:

In accordance with Section 21-26 of the City's Code of Ordinances, I am writing to request that the following requested contract awards be submitted to the City Council and the Education Subcommittee for approval.

- *Providence Water Supply Board* – Approval of a sole source contract to GrowSmartRI of Providence, RI to encourage and support sustainable economic growth in an amount of \$167,040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matthew M. Clarkin, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew M. Clarkin, Jr.
Internal Auditor



September 23, 2016

The Honorable Mayor Jorge O. Elorza
Chairman, Board of Contract and Supply
Providence City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Partnership with GrowSmartRI

Dear Mayor Elorza:

We are requesting the Mayor to approve, and the Board of Contract and Supply to authorize Providence Water to engage in a partnership with GrowSmartRI in an amount not to exceed \$167,040. GrowSmartRI is a non-profit organization which is based in Providence, whose goal is to encourage and support sustainable economic growth. These types of efforts are recommended in our State-approved Water Quality Protection Plan.

Historically, Rhode Island farms (including those located on the Scituate Reservoir watershed) contributed significantly to the dinner tables of many Rhode Islanders. Throughout the latter 20th century, food production migrated to other parts of the country, and even to other parts of the world. Somewhat recently, consumers have become increasingly concerned with the origin and safety of their food. This has resulted in a resurgence of locally produced food, fiber and even forest products. However, the size of the producers' operations have shrunk considerably, resulting in many small, "back yard" farms. Unfortunately, local zoning laws currently do not allow for the processing (into "value-added" products), marketing and sale directly from the properties on which they are produced.

Providence Water is interested in working with GrowSmartRI to educate town officials regarding this issue, and ultimately assist them in revising their zoning laws. Through such changes, agricultural products could be sold directly from where the food/fiber/forest products are grown. Such actions should benefit our watershed protection program. Initially, farmers and other rural landowners may gain a small yet significant source of income. This in turn should promote a greater commitment by the landowners to their land, both financially and emotionally. Such "ties to the land" should discourage a potential sale of the property to a developer, who in turn would convert the open space in to several or even many houses. This type of development, specifically septic systems, lawns and streets, would contribute to the gradual contamination of streams and ponds, and ultimately the Scituate Reservoir.

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

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Following the successful implementation of this program, Providence Water and GrowSmartRI will continue working with the watershed towns to revise other town ordinances. Such revisions will also focus on minimizing water quality impacts to the Scituate Reservoir. Proven land use planning techniques, often referred to as "transfer of development rights", "conservation development", or "low impact development", will be explored and pursued.

The Board of Providence Water unanimously approved this two-year proposal at their meeting held on September 21, 2016.

I respectfully request that the Board of Contract & Supply authorize payment to GrowSmartRI in an amount not to exceed \$167,040 for a two year period.

Funds are available in 843-843-52790

Respectfully Submitted,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD



Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

