

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 148

Approved March 27, 1980

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare has prepared messages which are transmitted via radio broadcasts to the people of these United States, and

WHEREAS, Encouragement of the use of contraceptives is the purpose of the broadcasts, but by the wording thereof pre-marital sex appears to be condoned, and

WHEREAS, To limit these messages to birth control, without addressing the moral issue, leads teenagers into believing that moral and ethical values no longer exist in our society,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Members of the City Council of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, do hereby urge that future messages as prepared by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare pertaining to birth control, address the moral issue in order to clearly point out to the younger generation that moral and ethical standards continue to have propriety in our society.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 20 1980

READ AND PASSED

Ralph Fungoli
Jose M. Mendonca

APPROVED

MAYOR

James C. Cianci, Jr.

MAR 27 1980

Carlson Paulson

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

RECEIVED
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
5712 S. UNIVERSITY AVE.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

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April 2, 1980

United States Department of Health,
Education and Welfare
Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Secretary
330 Independence Avenue
South West Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Califano,

Enclosed is certified copy of Resolution Number 148 passed by the Providence City Council and approved by His Honor the Mayor for your review.

Very truly yours,

Rose M. Mendonca,
City Clerk.

RMM/jma
Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20857

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

APR 14 1980

Ms. Rose M. Mendonca
City Clerk, Department
of City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Ms. Mendonca:

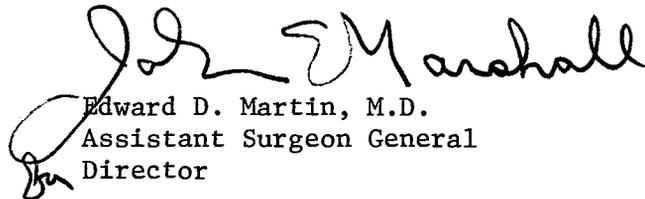
Thank you for your letter of April 2 regarding the radio and television campaign on teenage pregnancy sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.

This two-phase media campaign was launched in October to educate and motivate adolescents to think and act responsibly about sex. While each public service message is based in the film or television personality's own words, the spots were carefully edited to convey the points that an unplanned pregnancy can adversely affect a young person's life, and one should not allow her or himself to be pressured by peers into having sex. With more than a million teenage pregnancies occurring each year, we had to accept the fact that many teens have made a decision to be sexually involved and may need motivation to use birth control to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

The subject is delicate and controversial, and it has been heartening that support from local communities has been exceptionally high. The campaign has succeeded in raising an awareness among many parents of the teenage pregnancy problem and the need to communicate with their children about human sexuality within the context of their own morals and values. For your information we are enclosing excerpts from a few of the supportive letters received from parents, educators, health professionals and teens. In light of this, we feel this campaign has been in the public interest.

We appreciate your interest in the teenage pregnancy media campaign. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,


Edward D. Martin, M.D.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director

Enclosure

EXCERPTS FROM SOME OF THE LETTERS SUPPORTING THE FAMILY PLANNING CELEBRITIES MEDIA
CAMPAIGN

"I have two children who are not old enough to be concerned with this (referring to the Erik Estrada PSA), but I hope that when they are old enough, they will take exactly the attitude Estrada suggests."

"I have one young teenage girl and another girl almost into her teens. I like these messages! I have tried my best to teach my girls the right moral standards, but I am not so far removed from my own teen years that I don't remember how strong peer pressure can be. If these PSA's can keep even one teenager from giving into the pressure of today's so-called life style, they are well worth the time and effort."

"As a registered nurse in a city hospital and childbirth educator, I wish to say I am very impressed with your television commercial warning against adolescent pregnancy.... My last patient was a 15 year old having her third child. These girls are very interested in television and influenced by the media...."

"I was one of those girls who got pregnant at an early age. At 18 years old I was fresh out of high school and had started my first semester at college. I became pregnant and as a result I was very sick and had to dropout.... I know what an experience it was for me and what not getting a college education did to my life so I can imagine what it must be like for girls who range from 12-17 who don't get to get a high school education.... Having a baby out of wedlock and especially at an early age is really a rough situation. This is why I'm really pleased to see your commercial on T.V.... I really hope your public announcement helps to cut those figures to zero."

"All the lectures concerning virtue, chastity and virginity have obviously not worked well enough. If another approach could possibly help, I'm all for it."

"I work in a local high school. The students are not stupid. A lot of them have had sex. I know of three young women that are now pregnant. I discussed the PSA (Erik Estrada) with my students.... If people would discuss birth control with their children before it is too late, these young women might not have an unwanted pregnancy right now."

"When we first saw that PSA (Erik Estrada), my husband and I were very impressed. I don't think teens are told enough about sex and prevention of unwanted pregnancies. Apparently, not enough is being done to properly educate them."

"Regardless of religion or moral standards, unwed pregnancies do occur. If more young people were well informed, they might not find themselves carrying the heavy burden of being parents at an early age."

"I am sixteen years old and have a little girl one year old. When I was little I wished to be a model and still do. I love my little girl very much, but at the time I never heard commercials about birth control and such and was never talked to about sex and having children. I think these would have helped me alot (the PSA's). I think they should be on a family program."

"Personally, I want to thank you for airing the message (Erik Estrada PSA). I am certain that it brought a subject up for discussion in many households that is often very hard for both parents and young people to know how to bring up when needed."

"Our family saw the PSA and discussed the fact that it would probably reach more of the young audience than any number of parents or teachers could possibly reach."

"I feel the PSA was done with a very delicate touch and on a level young people can relate to. I wish I'd seen something like it when I was in my teens."

"We learn from TV and I personally think that this PSA (Erik Estrada) is one of the best I have ever heard."