

City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL*No. 194***EFFECTIVE May 16, 2016**

WHEREAS, The quality and affordability of housing has an incredible impact on the health, growth, and prosperity of our city; and

WHEREAS, In 2014 and 2015, the United Way's 2-1-1 service received nearly 16,000 foreclosure prevention calls from Rhode Islanders; and

WHEREAS, From 2009 through December 2015, nearly 13,000 residential foreclosures deeds were filed in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has the 2nd highest percentage of seriously delinquent loans in New England and the 6th highest percentage in the nation; and

WHEREAS, According to HousingWorksRI's 2015 Fact Book, Rhode Island has one of the nation's oldest housing stocks and nearly 16% of Rhode Island's mortgages have negative equity; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Housing Survey, Rhode Island's renter-occupied properties are twice as likely to have moderate or severe physical problems than owner-occupied properties; and

WHEREAS, The impact of housing disparities and the burden of housing costs affect different sectors of the population in different ways, for example, in 2013, HousingWorksRI reported that the home-ownership rate amongst Rhode Island's Latino population was just 26%, compared to 64% for non-Latino Rhode Islanders, and 45% for Latino's nationwide; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, it was estimated that a household earning the state's median household income of \$55,902 would only be able to afford a median priced single-family home in six of Rhode Island's cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, According to HousingWorksRI, 46% of home-owners and 57% of renters in Providence are considered cost burdened by housing; and

WHEREAS, The National Housing Conference reported that, in 2014, nearly one quarter of renters in the Providence metro area spent at least half of their income on housing; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, HousingWorksRI estimated that affordable housing for renters could free up nearly \$400 million, strengthening the local economy and expanding the tax base; and

WHEREAS, Creating a special commission of experts and stakeholders to research and make recommendations on the issues affecting housing in Providence will help ensure that a comprehensive approach is taken, all voices are heard, and effective measures are developed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby establish the Special Commission to Study Housing in order to study issues affecting the quality of Providence's housing stock and the affordability of housing in Providence, and the impact housing has on both the local economy and quality of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Special Commission to Study Housing shall consist the chair of the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning; the Director of the Planning Department or her designee; the Director of Rhode Island Legal Services or his designee; the Director of Housing and Community Development for the State of Rhode Island or his designee; one (1) representative from a community development corporation appointed by the City Council; three (3) representatives from community-based organizations involved in housing advocacy appointed by the City Council; and one (1) public housing resident appointed by the City Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as part of its review, the Special Commission to Study Housing will hold no fewer than nine (9) public meetings and, within two hundred and seventy (270) days, shall present the City Council with a report detailing its findings and recommendations, including any legislative changes, regulatory policies, and enforcement measures warranted by their findings.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 05 2016

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature

Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk