

CHAPTER 2025-15

No.194 **AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE XXIII OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ENTITLED: "CAPITAL CENTER," TO REPEAL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION**

Approved April 23, 2025

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

SECTION 1. Sections 2-361, 2-362, 2-363, 2-364, and 2-365 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "Capital Center," are hereby repealed.

Sec. 2-361, Purposes.

~~It has been determined that there exists within the City of Providence railroad and former railroad properties including the Union Station complex and adjacent lands thereto which are the subject of a railroad relocation project involving the coordination of federal, state, local and private action and which areas are in or contiguous to urban areas of the City of Providence of historical, aesthetic, social, cultural and economic importance which are hereby declared to be important public assets. It has also been determined that there is a need to design the development of such areas for the purposes of preserving for the citizens of Providence and the general public the important historical and aesthetic features of such areas, promoting of commercial and economic development and the attractiveness of our city for appropriate business, industrial and tourist trade resources and investment, and developing of an attractive environment that fosters the social welfare and health of the public and is harmonious with the social, historic and cultural environment that exists in the City of Providence, and the coordinating of the federal, state, local and private action that influences said railroad relocation project.~~

~~It is hereby declared to be an important public goal of the City of Providence to govern in a comprehensive and coordinated manner the development of such areas, including, implementation of special land use controls, proper urban planning, developmental tools and the implementation and administration of the plan of development which sets forth design and development criteria regulation and enforcement procedures.~~

~~Finally, it is recognized that the State of Rhode Island has declared it a public purpose and policy of this state to encourage appropriate, comprehensive and coordinated development of railroad and former railroad properties and adjacent lands that are or may be the subject of railroad relocation projects and specifically has authorized creation of special development districts in each of the cities of the state and the creation of special development district commissions to adopt, implement, and administer plans of development that establish and enforce design development criteria and regulations for the development of such areas.~~

Sec. 2-362. Description of the special development district.

~~In accordance with the procedures established herein, the following described area which is part of or contiguous with a railroad or former railroad property and adjacent lands thereto shall be established, designated, laid out defined as the Capital Center Special Development District:~~

~~The Capital Center Special Development District is that tract of land generally bounded by Gaspee Street, Smith Street, Canal Street, West Exchange Street and Interstate Route 95 but is more particularly described in that certain document entitled "Capital Center Project, Providence, Rhode Island" prepared for the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Washington, D.C., dated July 1980, attached hereto [but not reproduced herein] as Exhibit A.~~

Sec. 2-363. Public hearings prior to designation of special development district and amendment of boundaries.

~~There shall be a public hearing by the committee on urban redevelopment, renewal and planning to investigate and make recommendations to the city council concerning the proposed Capital Center Special Development District. All interested persons shall be given opportunity to be heard at such public hearing. The city clerk is hereby instructed to give written notice of said hearing by registered or certified mail, at least seven (7) days before date of said hearing, to all owners of any real property within two hundred (200) feet of the perimeter of the proposed Capital Center Special Development District as described herein and also to give notice, by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within this city at least once each week for three (3) successive weeks prior to the date of such hearing. Such newspaper notice containing a description of the proposed Capital Center Special Development District shall be inserted once in its entirety and thereafter a weekly formal legal notice shall be inserted stating that a public-~~

hearing will be held, specifying the time and place of such hearing and all such weekly formal notices shall include reference to said original advertisement which gave the full description. Written notice of such public hearing shall similarly contain a description of the proposed Capital Center Special Development District.

The boundaries of the proposed Capital Center Special Development District which are established, designated, laid out and defined according to provisions of this section may be amended only in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section.

Sec. 2-364. Designation of Capital Center Commission.

The Capital Center Commission, a commission constituted and established as a public corporation by the General Assembly, in the State of Rhode Island, is hereby designated as Capital Center Special Development District Commission for the Capital Center Special Development District. It shall adopt, implement and administer a plan of development for the Capital Center Special Development District. Said Capital Center Commission is hereby designated a public agency of the City of Providence and shall have all of the powers, rights, duties, obligations specified in Title 45, Chapter 24.4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, 1956, as amended.

Sec. 2-365. Jurisdiction of zoning board of review.

All ordinances, rules, regulations and any part thereof that are in conflict with this article are hereby repealed: provided, that nothing herein shall be deemed to impair, amend, repeal or otherwise supersede the jurisdiction of the zoning board of review in the area designated Capital Center Special Development District pursuant to this article.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect only upon passage and enactment by the General Assembly of state legislation similarly repealing the public law that established the Capital Center Commission; provided, however, if that already has occurred, this ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 03 2025
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

Uma L. Mastrosianni
CLERK

IN CITY
COUNCIL
APR 17 2025
FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

Rachel M. Miller
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT
Uma L. Mastrosianni
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Butt P. Sill

Mayor

Date: 4/23/25