

**THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No.* 832

READ AND EXPUNGED XXXXXXXXX ~~Approved~~ December 18, 2003

WHEREAS, More than 400 employees of the Providence Journal Company who are represented by the Providence Newspaper Guild have been without a contract for almost four years and have not had a regular wage increase since January 1999; and

WHEREAS, Guild-represented workers live and work in Providence, contributing to the financial health of the city; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Journal Company has refused to negotiate in good faith with the Providence Newspaper Guild, and has unilaterally eliminated holiday and parking benefits, reduced vacation time, and changed medical and dental plans while increasing employees' share of the costs of these benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Journal Company is one of Rhode Island's most profitable businesses, and its parent company, the Dallas-based Belo Corp. is reporting healthy revenue gains; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Journal Company has been found to have committed 27 violations of National Labor Relations Act following two separate trials before an NLRB Judge, and has engaged in protracted and frivolous litigation for the purpose of evading its responsibilities under the law and its contract with the Providence Newspaper Guild; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Journal Company does not hesitate to ferret out and publicize the wrong-doing of businesses and public officials, yet has failed to report on its own violations of law, and

WHEREAS, The Providence Journal Company, as the region's largest newspaper, has a sacred obligation to serve the citizens of the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That The Providence City Council calls on the Providence Journal to:

1. Immediately comply with the decisions and orders of the National Labor Relations Board; and
2. Bargain in good faith with the legal representative of its employees, and to make its employees whole for losses suffered by its violations of contract and law; and
3. Publicly report fairly and completely on its misconduct toward its employees, and

Councilman Luna (By Bequest)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council calls on elected officials throughout Rhode Island to contact the Providence Journal's management and insist on the newspaper's compliance with its obligations under the law.

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC 18 2003

~~READ AND EXPUNGED FROM RECORD~~

*Michael X. Clement*

CLERK

A Resolution in Support of a Labor Contract for Members of the Providence Newspaper Guild  
December 4, 2003 - 18 Per Councilman Luna  
Councilman Miguel Luna, by Request

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