

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 153

Approved March 24, 2025

WHEREAS, In the United States, about 20,000 youth exit foster care without a permanent family placement each year; and

WHEREAS, Experiencing the foster care system itself is challenging and often traumatic for many youth, yet, aging out of this system without transitional support can be especially harmful to young adults; and

WHEREAS, Young adults who exit foster care without permanent family supports are significantly more likely to face unemployment, homelessness, and mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing these challenges over 20 years ago, Lisa Guillette transformed her small-scaled foster parents association into a leading nonprofit organization, Foster Forward, dedicated to supporting youth in and aging out of foster care; and

WHEREAS, Her leadership has positively impacted the lives of thousands, providing pathways to higher education, financial independence, lasting mentorship connections, and shelter for those experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Notably, Lisa initiated the organization's objective of providing housing by purchasing units to create affordable housing for those transitioning out of foster care; and

WHEREAS, Guillette partnered with other organizations, such as One Neighborhood Builders, Crossroads Rhode Island, and Family Service of Rhode Island to transform properties into affordable housing for young adults; and



WHEREAS, The Taunton Avenue Collaborative, a 144-unit complex in East Providence, exemplifies the transformative work resulting from the collaboration between these organizations; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, these projects reflect Lisa Guillette's ambition, whose genuine compassion and drive to help all youth have led to life-saving initiatives in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, It is unsurprising that Lisa Guillette was awarded 2025 Rhode Island Woman of the Year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Providence City Council congratulates Lisa on this well-deserved honor and extends its deep appreciation for her unwavering commitment to protecting and serving our most vulnerable youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage a copy of this resolution be sent to Lisa Guillette.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 20 2025
READ AND PASSED

RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 3/24/25