

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 414

Approved September 18, 2009

WHEREAS, The Port of Providence, known as ProvPort, is a critical economic engine for Rhode Island and the northeast region as presently more than 3.2 million tons of cargo move via this terminal; and

WHEREAS, The activities of the Port have increased by more than 400% since 2001, and the job creation fueled by the Port activities have grown to more than 950 direct jobs and an additional 1,456 indirect jobs and that these jobs at the port are good-paying skilled positions that pay on \$37 per hour in wages and benefits; and

WHEREAS, According to the national marine consulting firm, Martin Associates, the ProvPort operations in 2008 generated more than \$182 million of total economic activity in the region; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island economy has been one of the hardest hit due to the national and global economy and that 12.7 percent of Rhode Islanders are unemployed and the state has been distressed for twenty-one consecutive months; and

WHEREAS, A consortium of government, for-profit corporations, and not-for-profit organizations have joined together to develop an innovative, growth-driven application to the TIGER Discretionary Grant of the United States Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, This grant application, called the ReNEWable Port, will provide critical resources to replace the outdated bulk cranes with state-of-the-art, multi-purpose cranes that will not only allow protect ProvPort's existing bulk operation, but will allow the port to begin container operations; and

WHEREAS, The benefits from this expansion are extensive according to a Benefit-Cost Analysis completed by Bryant University's Chafee Center for International Business, that found, "Long-term employment benefits are substantial. TIGER Grant dollars will provide funding allowing ProvPort to expand its current maritime activities to create substantial long-term direct employment growth and provide a sustainable source

of revenue to the region. New operations at the port will result in the creation of nearly 1,000 high-wage jobs, supporting an average salary with benefits totaling \$81,000,000"; and

WHEREAS, Bryant University also found, "the construction of the crane and barge equipment along with the wind turbines and solar panels will provide substantial stimulus in short term job creation for the U.S. economy - employing approximately 634 new workers and generating more than \$120 million of economic output"; and

WHEREAS, Funding from the TIGER grant program for the ReNEWable Port will provide the ProvPort facility the ability to transform the energy usage from fossil fuel produced electricity to the implementation of a renewable energy strategy; and

WHEREAS, The present electricity usage costs in excess of \$700,000 and produces tons of greenhouses gases, the implementation of the ReNEWable Port initiative will produce more electricity than the port needs through the installation of both solar panels and wind turbines on the ProvPort campus; and

WHEREAS, This greening of the Port has substantial environmental and economic benefits; and

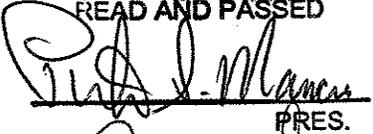
WHEREAS, According to research conducted by the University of Rhode Island and Bryant University, the installation of the new wind turbines and solar panels will reduce energy costs annually by \$830,000 and provide a surplus of electricity as clean energy technologies. The environmental benefits realized through the installation of these clean energy technologies will greatly reduce and eliminate annual emissions by 258 metric tons at a health cost savings of more than \$185,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, The ReNEWable Port application is an integral component to Rhode Island's economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, The economic impact of the ReNEWable Port is estimated to generate substantial environmental, health, and transportation job creation and economic competitiveness that total more than \$120 million in annual economic output.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That this the City Council of the City of Providence hereby endorses the ReNEWable Port application and the economic and environmental impact it will have on the regional economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Clerk be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to our Rhode Island Congressional Delegation and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood.

IN CITY COUNCIL
SEP 17 2009
READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

APPROVED


MAYOR 9/18/09