

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 329

EFFECTIVE ~~XXXXXX~~ *Approved* JULY 13, 2009

WHEREAS, The City of Providence's primary source of revenue is generated by the tax levy on real estate and tangible property; and

WHEREAS, Providence is host to numerous institutions that are exempted from paying property taxes, and

WHEREAS, Tax-Exempt institutions continue to add to their real estate holdings, thus removing additional properties from the tax rolls; and

WHEREAS, Expansion by tax-exempt property owners places an increased burden on taxable property owners, and diminishes the financial capacity of City government to provide basic services and public safety to the general public; and

WHEREAS, Tax-exempt institutions and taxpayers alike benefit from City-provided services, yet other than voluntary payments made by four colleges and universities, tax-exempts do not contribute to the cost of these services; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence values the contributions made by many tax-exempt institutions, which help to establish Providence as a creative, dynamic and healthy community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence is committed to ensuring that its neighborhoods are safe, stable and thriving by making critical improvements and investments and providing reliable municipal services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That it is in the interest of the City of Providence to review the impact of tax-exempt institutions on the city's tax base and to establish a standard level of contributions by major tax-exempt institutions.

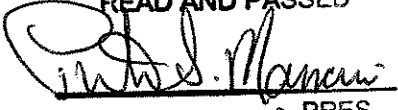
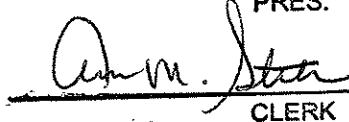
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That

- 1) The President of the City Council shall empanel a Commission to Study Tax-Exempt Institutions, to include nine members as follows: one (1) member from a community organization; one (1) member from a college or university; one (1) member from a hospital; one (1) member from a labor organization; one (1) mayoral appointment; two (2) members from the business community, one (1) of whom shall be the chair of the Commission, as named by the Council President; and two (2) Council members; and
- 2) The Commission shall be assisted in their deliberations by staff of the Office of the Tax Assessor, with data provided by any and all relevant City departments.

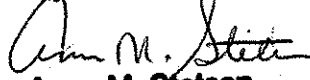
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission shall make written recommendations to the Council within 180 days of adoption of this resolution regarding contributions by tax-exempt institutions in Providence, based on the following information:

- 1) Detail costs associated with providing City services to tax-exempt institutions;
- 2) Provide summary of financial and programmatic contributions made by tax-exempt institutions to municipalities in selected cities nationwide, including best practices in public-private partnerships;
- 3) Develop standard methodology for valuing community partnerships made by tax-exempt institutions;
- 4) Establish a standard level of financial and programmatic contributions to be met by all large-scale tax-exempts in Providence;
- 5) Identify necessary City and State legislation; and
- 6) Review any additional means to mitigate the impact of tax-exempt institutions on the City's tax base, and to establish a fair and equitable approach to generating revenue to support City services.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUL 2 2009
READ AND PASSED


PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature:


Anna M. Stetson
City Clerk