

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 203

Approved May 8, 2024

WHEREAS, A fire broke out on the night of Wednesday April 10, 2024 at Rhode Island Recycled Metals, a scrap metal operation located in the Washington Park and South Providence neighborhoods of the City's tenth ward; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Recycled Metals has been the subject of a long-running legal dispute with state authorities and has recently faced enforcement actions from Mayor Smiley's administration, including a cease-and-desist order from the city; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Recycled Metals has a history of repeated violations of environmental regulations dating back to at least 2012, when the Department of Environmental Management first cited the company for polluting the river; and

WHEREAS, Despite enforcement actions and legal proceedings initiated by state agencies, including a lawsuit filed in Superior Court by the Department of Environmental Management and the Attorney General's office, Rhode Island Recycled Metals continued to operate in disregard of environmental laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, The company's failure to comply with permits and settlement agreements, including requirements to control runoff, remove deteriorating vessels, and restore the site, has raised serious concerns about its commitment to environmental stewardship and public safety; and

WHEREAS, The recent fire at Rhode Island Recycled Metals serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing threats posed by the company's operations, highlighting the urgent need to hold the business accountable for its repeated violations of environmental laws and regulations, as well as its disregard for public safety and the neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, Ward 10 Councilman Pedro Espinal stands in solidarity with residents of Washington Park, South Providence, and community advocates who have been disproportionately affected by the operations of Rhode Island Recycled Metals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of Providence condemns the negligence of Rhode Island Recycled Metals and calls for swift and decisive action that goes as far as full closure of the facility to ensure the safety and health of our neighborhoods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council urges state authorities to continue their investigations into Rhode Island Recycled Metals and take appropriate enforcement actions to hold the business accountable for its actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Mayor Brett Smiley, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and other relevant state agencies to emphasize the urgency of addressing the ongoing threats posed by Rhode Island Recycled Metals.


IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 02 2024

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

Tina L. Mastromarino
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

Date: 5/8/2024