



Executive Chamber, City of Providence, Rhode Island

JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.  
MAYOR

April 27, 1987

The Honorable Rose M. Mendonca  
Providence City Council  
City Hall  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Madame Clerk:

Pursuant to Section 406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, I am this day requesting a special meeting of the Providence City Council to be held Thursday, April 30, 1987, at 7:30 P.M. in the City Council Chamber to consider the following ordinances:

- A) Budget message and appropriation ordinance setting forth in detail estimates for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1987 and ending June 30, 1988.  
  
An ordinance making an appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1988.
- B) An ordinance establishing the classes of positions, the maximum number of employees and the number of employees in certain classes in the City Departments and repealing ordinance Chapter 1986-31, approved June 26, 1986, as amended.
- C) An ordinance establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and repealing ordinance Chapter 1986-32, approved June 26, 1986, as amended.
- D) An ordinance providing for the assessment and collection of 1987 taxes, being based on one hundred percent (100%) of the 1987-1988 fiscal year tax collection.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 30 1987  
READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*Rose M. Mendonca*  
CLERK

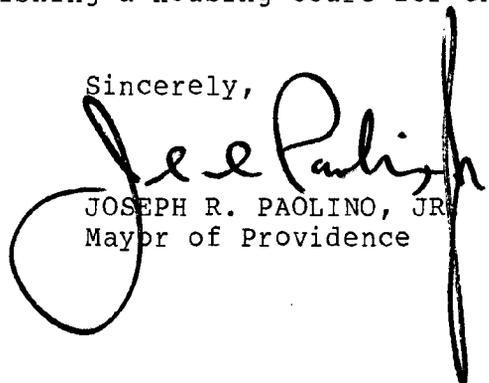
Rose Mendonca

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April 27, 1987

- E) An ordinance in amendment of and in addition to Chapter 17-59 of the Ordinance of the City of Providence and entitled "Overtime Pay".
- F) An ordinance in amendment of and in addition to Chapter 15-2 of the Ordinance of the City of Providence approved and entitled "Penalties for Traffic Violations".
- G) An ordinance in amendment of and in addition to Chapter 23-6 of the City of Providence approved and entitled "Fee, Notice, Examination Prior to Making Excavation in Street or Highway".
- H) An ordinance amending the schedule of fees for building permits and other related fees imposed by the Department of Inspection and Standards.
- I) An ordinance establishing a Housing Court for the City of Providence.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.  
Mayor of Providence

**FILED**

APR 27 2 05 PM '87

DEPT. OF CITY CLERK  
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Rose M. Mendonca

City Clerk

Clerk of Council

Clerk of Committees



Michael R. Clement

First Deputy

Grace Nobrega

Second Deputy

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

TO RALPH GUGLIELMINO, CITY SERGEANT:

WHEREAS, His Honor, Joseph R. Paolino, Jr., Mayor of the City of Providence has, pursuant to Section 406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, requested the City Clerk, in writing, to Call a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on the 30th day of April A.D., 1987, at 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) for the Purpose of Enacting the Following:

Budget message and appropriation ordinance setting forth in detail estimates for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1987 and ending June 30, 1988.

An ordinance making an appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1988.

An ordinance establishing the classes of positions, the maximum number of employees and the number of employees in certain classes in the City Departments and repealing ordinance Chapter 1986-31, approved June 26, 1986, as amended.

An ordinance establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and repealing ordinance Chapter 1986-32, approved June 26, 1986, as amended.

An ordinance providing for the assessment and collection of 1987 taxes, being based on one hundred percent (100%) of the 1987-1988 fiscal year tax collection.

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IN CITY COUNCIL  
APR 30 1987

READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*Rose M. Mendonca* CLERK

An ordinance in amendment of and in addition to Chapter 23-6 of the City of Providence approved and entitled "Fee, Notice, Examination prior to Making Excavation in Street or Highway".

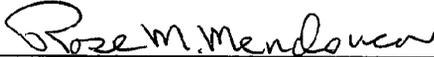
An ordinance amending the schedule of fees for building permits and other related fees imposed by the Department of Inspection and Standards.

An ordinance establishing a Housing Court for the City of Providence.

You are therefore, hereby commanded and required to summon each Member of the City Council to that Special Meeting, as Called.

HEREOF, Fail Not, and make true return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon.

Given under my hand and Official Seal of the City of Providence, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 27th day of April A.D., 1987.

  
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Rose M. Mendonca, City Clerk

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, Sc.

APRIL 27, 1987

I, Ralph Guglielmino, City Sergeant, do hereby certify that I have notified each Member of the City Council of the Special Meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 30, 1987 at 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) in the Chamber of the City Council, City Hall Providence, in accordance with the subject Warrant by delivering to each Member a copy thereof.

*Ralph Guglielmino 4/28/87*  
CITY SERGEANT



Executive Office, City of Providence, Rhode Island

JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.  
MAYOR

April 30, 1987

The Honorable Members of the City Council  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

Tonight I present for your consideration the Budget of the City of Providence for 1987-1988. It is, as it has always been under this administration, an honest and responsible budget. But, the time has finally come for the City to pay for the Reagan budget cuts. Three years ago I went down to Washington on a train with other local officials to fight those cuts. I said then that the burden for the Federal government's callous abandonment of urban America would eventually fall to cities at a time when they were just beginning to recover from the inflationary spiral of the last decade. That time has come.

Providence has lost \$5 million in Federal Revenue Sharing - \$5 million dollars that helped us rebuild our roads and restore our schools - \$5 million that helped us fight crime and make our neighborhoods safe - \$5 million that helped us keep our streets clean and our city liveable - \$5 million that helped us grow. We will still become America's Best City but now the Federal government has said it won't help. We are on our own, and I believe the budget I present here tonight is a fiscally conservative and responsible budget designed to sustain growth and provide the necessary level of services to keep Providence moving on the course we have set. It is a budget that gives the taxpayers something for their investment. It gives them what they have told me they want - at every neighborhood meeting we have held around the City.

The price we pay today is an investment in our neighborhoods tomorrow.

The Honorable Members of the City Council  
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This budget of \$201,192,110 reflects a dramatic loss in Federal Revenue Sharing, and includes increased fixed-cost payments - like \$900,000 for Blue Cross - while continuing to invest in our neighborhoods. It includes bond repayments for library improvements, schools, fire stations, and millions of dollars in the repayment of development bonds. This administration has been and continues to be fiscally responsible. We have increased our bond rating and reduced our cumulative deficit from \$6 million to just over \$3 million in only three years, and we've shown a surplus each and every year.

It is time for the State to bear its share of the burden that now falls to property taxpayers. Tonight I again call on the State to give us our fair share. I have introduced legislation in the General Assembly that will provide more State aid for our libraries, our parks, our police, and to help our senior citizens. Tonight, I am once again calling on the Governor and the legislature - with whom we have worked well in the past - to provide Providence with its share of payment in lieu of taxes for tax-exempt colleges and hospitals - that means \$3 million to the City.

With increased State aid we can continue on the dynamic and progressive course we have set for the City. I will be working with you, the members of the City Council, to determine how additional State aid funds would be applied to the budget - whether to reduce the deficit, to develop new programs, to fund capital improvement projects, to reduce taxes, or to create a million dollar neighborhood trust fund to repair streets, sidewalks, and parks.

This is an exciting time for Providence. We are rapidly growing and our economy is booming, but we are at a crucial threshold. The budgetary decisions we make are important to the continued realization of our vision for the future. This budget is an honest budget with a moderate tax increase that gives us a return on our investment, an investment in the neighborhoods. I've sat where you're sitting now. I know what it is to be asked to increase taxes. But this time you're getting something in return. You're investing in your neighborhoods.

This budget cost effectively reflects the needs of people to whom we have talked in neighborhood meetings across this City. What the people want they can have; but it comes with a price tag. The people want more police, and we are going to have them. This budget provides for the addition of 28 police officers and increases for the first time in two decades the Table of Organization to 440. This is the first time in 20 years that this City has increased the Table of Organization for the Police Department.

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This budget maintains the 70% distribution of uniformed officers under the new organization. Twenty of the 28 new officers will be in uniform, assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division. Five of the remaining eight will be assigned to the Special Investigative Bureau to enhance our war on drugs and prostitution and continue Operation Pressure Point. With the increase in the Table of Organization, when the present 29 car posts are filled, any additional officers will be assigned to neighborhood patrols. Additionally, this budget adds 20 new police cars, 40 more radios, three new radar units, and funding for at least one police and fire school each year to keep a full complement of officers on duty at all times. We are sending a message that if it takes more money to rid our neighborhoods of crime - of drugs and prostitutes - then we are willing to pay the price. The price we pay today is an investment in our neighborhoods tomorrow.

Under this budget the City will refurbish one ladder truck, one pumper truck, and will purchase a new rescue vehicle to bolster the Fire Department's front line equipment

We cannot stop - we cannot turn back - because we have lost Federal Funds. We must continue to provide the best and most efficient services we can to sustain our growth. That growth is reflected in our increased school enrollment. This budget has not ignored the need for educational excellence. We must provide the funds necessary to educate the future citizens of Providence. Education is also an important element in any company's decision to locate in an area. But more than that, education is an investment in the future. For that reason, the budget I am proposing calls for an 8.2% increase in the school budget as recommended by the School Board. It includes funding necessary to open the old St. Mary's School as part of the Providence Public School System. This budget also includes funding for an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum. We are not only addressing ongoing maintenance needs, we're getting back to the basics. For the first time in the City's history we will have a full time administrator responsible for the development of the most modern and effective curriculum possible. The price we pay today is an investment in our neighborhoods tomorrow.

I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish in just a few years; and we're not going to stop now. We have modernized and streamlined government. People feel good about the way government is working under our administration. Our professionalism and competence have contributed to a new perception of Providence across this country. I want people to continue to feel that it really is great to work in a city that works. That is why this budget

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includes the first phase of a \$1.5 million program to complete the computerization of city offices and records. The unseen benefits of a modern government are priceless.

At neighborhood meetings across this City I've listened to what people want and this budget includes what we can afford to give them. They are concerned with housing costs and the problems of rundown housing and absentee landlords ruining their neighborhoods. Therefore, this budget includes an important re-organization of the Department of Inspections and Standards. It funds 15 housing inspectors bringing the staff to full complement for the first time in five years. Along with the creation of the new Providence Housing Court which is also included in this budget, this re-organization will make it easier to attack the continuing problem of substandard housing. A new Division of Prosecution will be created to expedite the prosecution of cases in the new Housing Court. In every neighborhood meeting people have asked us to address the problems of absentee landlords, abandoned property, and code violations. I believe this budget cost effectively does just that.

In every neighborhood meeting people have asked that we move abandoned cars, repave our streets, get the equipment necessary to keep our city clean and in good repair. This budget responsibly provides for increased services in the Department of Public Works. For the first time the City budget includes a line item for street repaving. In Fox Point, Elmwood, and the South End, in Silver Lake, Mt. Pleasant, and Federal Hill, in the North End and on the East Side everyone has said that our roads need work, and I agree. It's time we commit City funds to repairing our roads.

In every neighborhood meeting people have told us they want abandoned cars removed from property. The cars are an eyesore and a hazard, but we have had neither the manpower nor the money to adequately attack the problem. This budget provides for for an Auto Squad to continue to remove the hundreds of abandoned cars from the neighborhoods of Providence. Already we've removed abandoned cars from Appleton Street, from Putnam Street, from Osborn Street, from Cromwell and Jewett, and from Potters and Prairie Avenues.

Under this budget the Department of Public Works is being re-organized to better deliver the services people want. We are adding new equipment and re-building our labor force. This budget includes funding for another new street sweeper, a backhoe and new dump trucks to improve our ability to respond to the neighborhoods. But more than that, this budget realigns the entire Department of Public Works to meet the demands of our neighborhoods. It creates

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an Environmental Division which will comprehensively control the city's response to cleaning storm drains, streets and vacant lots, collecting garbage, and attacking the rodent problem. It creates an Infrastructure Division responsible for bridges, sewers, highways, and engineering, and funds a study of engineering and maintenance requirements for the Providence sewer system. And it creates a Planning and Maintenance Division to provide systematic solutions to our public works needs.

Additionally, in every neighborhood, people have asked for new crosswalks to be painted, for street signs, and for traffic signals. This budget provides the Traffic Engineer with funds to continue our street sign replacement program and for the latest in long lasting crosswalk paint. We will be repainting the crosswalks at school intersections like the one at Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Cathedral, and at Eaton and Nelson Streets. This budget also provides for a three year program to improve traffic signals. The price we pay today is an investment in our neighborhoods tomorrow. America's Best City must be America's best kept city. Any money we spend to keep Providence clean and in good repair is money well spent.

One of our greatest sources of pride is our parks - the land we own together. Last year was a year of great achievements for the Parks Department. We saw dramatic renovations of the Museum and the Planetarium. This budget provides for continued progress in our Parks Department. It provides funding for a Master Plan for the future of the Zoo and recommendations on the building of an African Exhibit, and takes into consideration funds raised by the admission fee to be used for future expansion of the Zoo. It provides funding for badly needed zoo keepers and for a qualified and professional General Zoo Curator to ensure that our zoo remains accredited and that it remains one of this state's most valued tourist attractions and an educational source of pride for children of all ages.

But, in addition, this budget ensures that grounds maintenance will be increased and that neighborhood parks will get the attention they need to reflect the new image of our City. We will begin the process of renovating Martin Luther King Fields, Knight Street Playground, Niagra Street Park, Davis Park, George J. West Park, and Wallace Street Playground. And - for the first time ever - this City has a budget account for the planting of trees in the neighborhoods of Providence. The price we pay today is an investment in our neighborhoods tomorrow. We cannot abandon our Parks, our open spaces, and the needs of our neighborhoods at a crucial time in our City's revitalization.

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When we went to Washington to fight for not only our city but for every city across America, we weren't just fighting for funding. We were fighting for people - for every person. We were fighting for the elderly and the poor. We were asking the Federal government not to abandon the people who needed its help the most. We fought for that \$5 million in Federal Revenue Sharing not just for new sidewalks or a new street light, but for badly needed programs for deserving people, programs like daycare and senior citizen transportation. The Federal Government said no. The State Government hasn't said enough. That is why this budget includes - for the first time in our City's history - a Department of Human Services. This Department coordinates and consolidates all Human Service programs throughout City government. It realigns programs from the Recreation Department and from Planning and Development; and it coordinates and oversees funding for all ongoing human service programs throughout the City including increased funding for programs at the Providence Center.

This budget includes an additional City expenditure for a new Human Services Department of only \$100,000 but the consolidation of services and the comprehensive approach to human services planning under one Department makes our investment cost effective.

There are two areas that are important to me that I have included in this budget. One is a 5% increase in funding for the Providence Public Library. But my proposal is conditional. I want a return on our investment. We are spending \$3 million to renovate the Library and we are committed to the fight for more State aid for the Providence Public Library. I want to increase the funding but I also want to be assured that for that increase the Library will remain open on weekends and most weekdays so that our children and all our citizens can take full advantage of all that the Library has to offer. I am, therefore, requesting that the Library and the City administration develop a mutually acceptable work plan for the delivery of complete library services to the people of Providence. The other area of importance that I have included in this budget is \$10,000 of seed money for a citywide celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the important work and progressive programs of the Providence Human Relations Commission. We will be asking the private sector to help us raise an additional \$50,000 to make that celebration a tremendous success.

The budget I propose tonight is based on a budgetary ethic that is guided by professionalism and built on tough decisions, sound judgement, good planning, common sense, and a vision for the future. At a time when we face a devastating \$5 million loss in Federal Revenue Sharing, this budget provides the best services and the most efficient government we can afford. Providence cannot afford to turn back. We've made too much progress to stop now.

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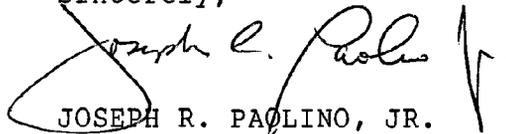
With the \$5 million in Revenue Sharing we lost we could have continued our progress at a minimal cost to the taxpayers. Without Revenue Sharing this budget calls for a tax increase of \$4.88.

We cannot be afraid to make difficult decisions and hard choices if we want to succeed. The price of progress is high, but the cost for failure is even higher.

We cannot abandon our neighborhoods, our progress, our success, or the high standard of excellence that we have set. No matter what, we will continue to succeed. Together we can make Providence America's Best City.

Let's invest in our neighborhoods. Let's invest in ourselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Paolino, Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the typed name and title.

JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.  
Mayor of Providence