

**THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 60

EFFECTIVE ~~Approved~~ February 12, 2006

WHEREAS, The City of Providence recognizes and values the important historical and ongoing contribution of workers in the realization of the Downtown Renaissance; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence affirms that every worker's family is stronger when they have job stability; when every worker is free to join with their co-workers to advocate for a safe and healthy workplace and organize to better their working and living conditions without threats or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has been and remains committed to ensuring companies recognize and uphold the rights guaranteed to workers by federal, state, and municipal laws, and that companies operate with honest and responsible business practices; and

WHEREAS, The National Labor Relations Board has authorized an official complaint against Martins Maintenance, a janitorial services contractor, after finding cause to proceed on the assertions that one of its supervisors engaged in a workplace assault against a contracted janitor in its employ on the evening of November 25, 2005 in the basement of the Turks Head Building in Downtown Providence, threatened to have the legs of the employee cut off, and illegally fired the employee that same evening as retribution for the contracted janitor's exercising his First Amendment right to free association and his right to organize under the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 by communicating with representatives of the Service Employees International Union Local 615; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit has opened an investigation into the likelihood of Martins Maintenance systematically committing Workers' Compensation Premium Fraud as a standard business practice, at the expense of its employees and honest and responsible

Councilman Linn, By Request

businesses, by underreporting its payroll and using shell companies to falsely declare as independent contractors; and

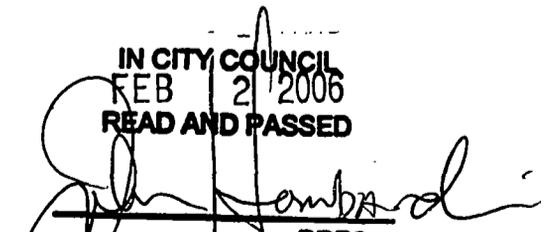
WHEREAS, Martins Maintenance employs contracted janitors in the Turks Head Building but pays them through a company, the Floor Strippers, whose charter was revoked in 2004 by the Secretary of State for failing to submit their annual report and which reportedly does not provide Workers' Compensation Insurance, nor pay its payroll taxes, allegations which, if true, spin a web of fraud and corruption to evade the company's legal responsibilities to its employees and our City at the expense of honest workers, responsible businesses, and our City's taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Martins Maintenance, by displacing a contracted janitor working at 56 Exchange Terrace, an office building in Downtown Providence, upon receiving the cleaning contract for the said office building on November 1, 2005, violated the Ordinance Relative to Displaced Workers that the Providence City Council adopted on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005, which aims to protect the most vulnerable low-wage workers from the job instability that plagues the contracted janitorial industry in cities across the United States.

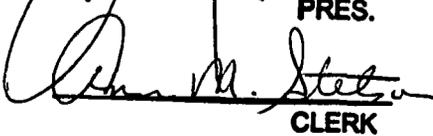
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence affirms the rights of all people working within the City that are guaranteed to them under federal, state, and municipal laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence strongly and emphatically discourages all building owners, private businesses, and municipal buildings and entities in our City from hiring Martins Maintenance, and declares Martins Maintenance a business non grata in the City of Providence.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
FEB 21 2006  
READ AND PASSED

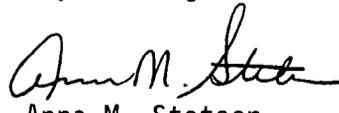


PRES.



CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature:



Anna M. Stetson  
City Clerk