

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


# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 487


EFFECTIVE ~~APPROVED~~ December 17, 2006

RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby authorizes the extension of the existing contract with Hutton Associates, Inc., to provide planning consultant services for the review of the proposed amendments to the City of Providence Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan through December 31, 2007, in a total amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
DEC 7 2006  
READ AND PASSED

  
ROBERT A. YOUNG  
CITY CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature:

  
Anna M. Stetson  
City Clerk

Council President Hamblin, Councillors Apatu, Leysel, Councillors Williams & Jones

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SOUTHERN METHODIST

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Jack A. Gold  
*Executive Director*

November 30, 2006

John Lombardi, President  
c/o Tom Glavin, Chief of Staff  
Providence City Council  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903

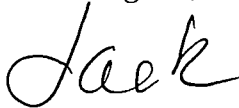
Dear John:

Congratulations on your re-election to City Council, and for all kind words of support for PPS. I am writing in reference to the work of the professional consultant Mr. Ernie Hutton of New York City.

From my perspective, Ernie really helped to establish a process whereby the City Council and the Department of Planning and Development has established a productive dialogue and more open communication around issues related to the proposed zoning ordinance and a new comprehensive plan for the city. This process has been valuable, and I believe that Ernie's continued involvement would be of tremendous value as this process continues to move forward. Ernie has also made an effort to include other interested NGOs in the city such as PPS, and for that I am most grateful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,



Jack A. Gold  
Executive Director

# THE PROVIDENCE FOUNDATION

30 Exchange Terrace ■ Providence, Rhode Island 02903 ■ 401. 521. 3248 fax 401. 751. 2434

E-mail: [dbaudouin@provfoundation.com](mailto:dbaudouin@provfoundation.com)



December 4, 2006

Council President John Lombardi  
Providence City Hall  
Providence, RI 02903

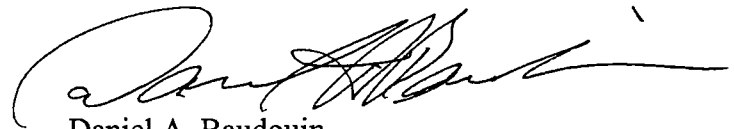
RE: Hutton Associates, Inc.

Dear Council President:

I understand that the City's contract with Hutton Associates, Inc. needs to be extended.

My experience with Hutton Associates, Inc. and its principal, Ernest Hutton, has been very positive. Mr. Hutton is professional, knowledgeable, and accessible. I believe that he has added value to the City's Comprehensive Update process. His continued involvement should help lead to a Comprehensive Plan that is embraced by many resident and organizations.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel A. Baudouin  
Executive Director

DAB/lp

cc: Ernest Hutton

## Thomas Glavin

---

**From:** rochelle1951@aol.com

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 06, 2006 1:52 PM

**To:** Thomas Glavin

**Subject:** Letter of Support for Hutton Associates Consultant Agreement Extension

Tom,

Please forward this message to Council President John Lombardi expressing my support for the Council to extend the Ernest Hutton's contract to provide the Council with planning & advisory services associated with preparing the City's Comprehensive & Neighborhood Plans. I encourage him to extend Hutton's consultant services into 2007, to coincide with the remaining schedule of work now in progress on the City's Comp. Neigh. Plans.

At the request of Councilwoman Young, I have provided Ernie with all the assistance I can and he has been a pleasure to work with; his advocacy for the Council's interests during the planning and implementation process of conducting the City's Comprehensive planning has been consistent, thoughtful and probing outside the 'conventions' of comprehensive planning, (although the press initial roll out of the Comprehensive Plan was not handled well and I am aware that several Council members did not get notified of the press event which was not a positive).

If you have any questions or require additional comment from me, please don't hesitate to call me at 837-9600.

Rochelle Lee

---

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To: [tglavin.ikfr2@providenceri.com](mailto:tglavin.ikfr2@providenceri.com)

**Block** the address rochelle1951@aol.com

From: [rochelle1951@aol.com](mailto:rochelle1951@aol.com)

*You received this message because the sender is using a supplemental address that is not disabled.*

50 Willow Street  
Providence RI 02909-1732

December 6, 2006

John J. Lombardi, President  
Providence City Council  
Room 310  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence RI 02903-3215

Dear John,

This is to recommend in the strongest possible terms that the council extend the planning consultant contract for Ernie Hutton to assist the council during the development of the comprehensive plan. Ernie has been a valuable addition to the council's team in eliciting the input of citizens and an effective advisor to the council during the planning and implementation of the Providence Tomorrow charettes. His expertise and outstanding collaborative planning skills contributed greatly to openness and transparency of the charrette process and its wide acceptance.

It is critical to the success of the comprehensive planning process and the future of the city that the council build on the initiative that it took in hiring Ernie to help insure that the process continues to incorporate the highest planning standards and that the input of all citizens are heard and reflected in the comprehensive plan.

The council is to be commended for its leadership in taking the unusual step of hiring a nationally know planner to assist with the development of the comprehensive plan. Thank you for that leadership and for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

Janet Keller

SECTION D  
The Providence Journal  
PROVIDENCE  
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2006

# METRO EDITION

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Quick city and town news  
from all editions of  
The Providence Journal.

Tuesday - Friday See page 2 of RI Section.

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## Residents pack into workshop on future of city

Judging from the turnout at the first workshop on mapping the city's future, the mayor said it is obvious that residents share a passion for the capital city.

BY KAREN A. DAVIS  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Imagine a city where tree-lined streets are the norm, not the exception. Where all streets in all neighborhoods are free of broken glass and debris and have paths for residents to bike to work. Where people of modest income can afford to live on the same block as those more affluent.

Those are just some of the visions residents described last night as they mapped the future at Providence.

At a public workshop at the Roger Williams Park Casino, about 175 residents turned out to discuss their ideas with city planners. City Council members and other city officials, who are revising the city's Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinance.

City leaders want residents' input in helping to

craft a plan that will allow for growth and development while preserving characteristics that make neighborhoods unique, Mayor David N. Chelino told the standing-room-only crowd.

Judging from the turnout, Chelino said, it is obvious that many residents share a passion and interest in the capital city.

The project is called Providence Tomorrow: Our City, Our Neighborhoods, Our Future.

State law requires municipalities to revise comprehensive plans every five years. City officials must submit an updated plan by May.

Neighborhood groups and community advocates have raised questions about the direction of the city's growth and proposed changes to the zoning ordinance that some critics have said do not meet the city's future. D2

## Kudos all around for urban planner

Ernest W. Hutton Jr. is credited with fostering cooperation between the mayor's office and the City Council.

BY CATHLEEN F. CROWLEY  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — It's an unusual sight: The names of Mayor David N. Chelino and City Council President John J. Lombardi on a news release together, and they weren't even talking each other.

The leaders of the city's two branches of government were announcing Providence Tomorrow, the neighborhood planning process that will help guide development throughout the city.

Some credit a man named Ernest W. Hutton Jr. for the rare glimpse of cooperation

between Chelino and the City Council.

"That has been the mantra of Ernie," Lombardi said. "We have to do this together, we have to speak together."

The City Council hired Hutton last winter during the tense weeks when the city Planning and Development Department tried to push through a new zoning ordinance despite pleas from the public and City Council saying neighborhood planning must be done first.

Chelino eventually persuaded the zoning update and instructed the planning department to get the neighborhoods involved.

SEE HUTTON, D2

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### Hutton

Continued from Page D1

Hutton came on board around the same time.

"I think the council picked the right person for the job," said Daniel A. Boudreau, executive director of the Providence Foundation. "He has experience in Providence yet is enough of a fresh face so he doesn't have a particular ax to grind."

Hutton, based in New York City, is an urban planning consultant who helped craft Providence's preservation policy in 1991. He helped create 25 neighborhood plans to Roosevelt, Va., and mediated discussions between the business community and families of Sept. 11 victims

about the memorial on the site of the World Trade Center.

"My attitude toward planning is it should be practical," Hutton said in a slight Virginia drawl.

The council instructed Hutton to speak to everyone from community groups and residents to the city's planners and lawyers. His mission was to involve as many people as possible in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan that guides development.

"He impressed me as to his ability to bring people to the table and consensus building," said Lombardi.

Hutton credited the Planning Department with "taking the ball

and running with this." Indeed, the department has done the bulk of the work of designing and preparing for the community meetings.

Linda M. Palmer, deputy director of planning, said Hutton brought ideas on how to reach out and involve the community.

"One of the best benefits is that Ernie is helping the council be engaged in this process," Palmer said. "The mayor and the council have performed on this. Everyone is on board at his point."

Dwight P. Riley, co-chairman of Friends of Little Peter Park, was one of the more vocal critics of the Planning Department's rush to update the zoning code. Riley

has met with Hutton and said the planner has promoted more community input and improved the dialogue between the Planning Department and the council.

"There's definitely a coordination that we didn't see before," said Riley. "And it has allowed for more citizen participation through their council person."

The council is paying Hutton \$75,000, and Lombardi said the planner's contract will probably be extended. Originally, the council had voted to hire a planner and a real estate lawyer, but Lombardi said he is so pleased with Hutton that the lawyer might not be necessary.

[cityinfo@providencejournal.com](mailto:cityinfo@providencejournal.com) / (401) 277-7378

### Future

Continued from Page D1

needs of neighborhoods.

"The people of Providence will get the Providence that they want, the Providence that they deserve," Council President John J. Lombardi assured the audience. "Providence Tomorrow starts tonight."

Residents will be asked to take surveys, participate in meetings. They can log on to [www.providencetomorrow.org](http://www.providencetomorrow.org) and make suggestions. They can submit photos of things they like or don't like about their neighborhoods.

Last night, planning officials pushed through a PowerPoint presentation on statistics that showed how the city has changed in the last 15 years, adding population growth, \$3.4 billion in

investment in recent years and the drastic increase in property values.

Participants split into groups to vote on what they like about the city and what needs to be improved.

Planners asked participants to cover away from listing issues that are already well-known by city officials: race, trash, potholes, snow plowing, park maintenance, taxes and police.

Residents said they liked the city's diversity, neighborhoods, architecture, community activities, walkability, waterfront, small size, history, public spaces and events such as WaterFire, Providence and SoundSessions.

They saw room for improvement in affordable housing, public education, on-street parking, economic opportunities, job training, police brutality, walkability, recycling and community-

ment development, and said elected officials could respond better to community needs.

Linda Palmer, deputy director of the city Planning Department, encouraged participants to spread the word to their neighbors, noting that community participation is key to the success of Providence Tomorrow.

Last night's meeting will be followed by a citywide brainstorming session in October.

In January, city officials will begin housing character, neighborhood sessions in the neighborhoods. Palmer said the sessions will include two to four neighborhoods at a time so city officials can get input from all 25 neighborhoods in a timely manner.

The event concluded with an ice cream social and a live raffle.

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