

**City of Providence**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 584*

**DENIED December 6, 2018**

WHEREAS, A recent Hummel Report in the Providence Journal revealed that City Council members incur certain easily avoidable expenses on cell telephones they use for official City Council business that are paid for with City funds; and

WHEREAS, The City Council is responsible for enacting policies to ensure the prudent expenditure of City funds; and

WHEREAS, The City Council is also responsible for budgetary oversight of all City departments; and

WHEREAS, Well-publicized misuse of City funds by City Council members undercuts the City Council's credibility with (1) the voters and taxpayers of the City of Providence, (2) State officials who are asked to support City programs and (3) other City officials who are directed to spend City funds prudently; and

WHEREAS, In a recent telephone bill, hundreds of dollars of international telephone charges could have been avoided by the use of wi-fi networks, for which there is no telephone service charge; and

WHEREAS, The same telephone bill revealed money wasted on directory assistance, when cell telephone users can obtain directory information at no charge over the Internet; and

WHEREAS, In response to these reports, the City Council office has enacted a policy in the form attached as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby endorses the policy at Exhibit A and agrees to promote its continued use in the next legislative session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all monthly telephone bills will be maintained by the City Council's Chief of Staff for review on request by Council members and by the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That City Council members whose City-issued cell telephone bills include substantial international calling charges for City Council business that could have been avoided through the use of wi-fi networks can be held responsible for reimbursing the City Council for these excessive charges.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
DEC 06 2018

READ AND DENIED

 CLERK

# EXHIBIT A



**PROVIDENCE**  
CITY COUNCIL

To: City Council Members  
From: Council President David A. Salvatore  
Date: November 16, 2018  
Re: Council cell phone usage

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After a thorough review of City Council cell phone usage, the following policies will be implemented, effective immediately.

Each month, Council members will receive their phone bills electronically for review. Council staff will also monitor cell phone bills for any discrepancies or overages.

Attached is a cell phone terms of use agreement. Please sign and return it to the Chief of Staff at your earliest convenience.



**PROVIDENCE**  
CITY COUNCIL

**Terms of Use Agreement**

I, (NAME) hereby acknowledge that I understand that the (PHONE NUMBER) phone (Make/Model: \_\_\_\_\_) provided to me by the Providence City Council is the property of the City of Providence and its primary usage is to conduct City business and to remain in contact with constituents.

I understand that through the City Council's contract with Verizon I am allocated the following each month:

- 1000 minutes
- unlimited data
- unlimited texts

I understand that this plan is subject to change, and it is my responsibility to review my phone bill every month and ensure that charges are correct and minutes/data/texts are within the usage allowed. Any charges incurred by personal usage (including international travel, phone upgrades, directory assistance, etc.) shall be reimbursed to the City.

I understand that all phone calls, text messages, and emails sent to or from this phone are considered public information and may be accessible to third parties pursuant to the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act.

I understand that I am responsible for the cost of replacement of and/or repair of all damage to this cell phone, including cracked screens or hardware malfunctions due to water damage, drops, or other human error. I acknowledge that I have been advised to invest in a case to protect this phone. I understand that I am responsible for the purchase of any additional accessories for this phone, including but not limited to earbuds, chargers, cases, etc.

I understand that I am responsible for the security of my Council-issued cell phone and the information stored on it. If my Council-issued cell phone is lost or stolen, I will notify staff immediately.

Upon termination of my service with the City of Providence, I understand that this phone must be returned to the Council Office in usable, working condition. At the end of my service with the City, I understand that I have the option of retaining this phone number; if I choose to retain the number, I will work with Council staff to do so.

**I understand and agree to the terms of this agreement.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_