

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 328*

**Approved July 17, 2024**

WHEREAS, The Cape Verdean community has played a significant role in the history and development of Providence, Rhode Island, particularly in the Tockwotton area of Fox Point, where they settled and established a vibrant community at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and

WHEREAS, The Tockwotton Fox Point Cape Verdean Heritage Place at India Point Park Project, an independent, community-based research initiative led by former residents and descendants of the founding Cape Verdean families, aims to document, preserve, and commemorate the lived history and legacy of the Cape Verdean community, and

WHEREAS, Local 1329 of the I.L.A. (International Longshoremen's Association), founded in 1933 by Manuel Q. Ledo and John F. Lopez, stands as a testament to the resilience and solidarity of the Cape Verdean longshoremen, marking the first Black, predominantly Cape Verdean labor union in New England; and

WHEREAS, The proposed site for the Tockwotton Fox Point Cape Verdean Heritage Park is historically significant, located in the area of the first settlement, in close proximity to the dock where packet boats carrying immigrants from the Cape Verde Islands first arrived in Providence more than a century ago, and where the longshoremen of Local 1329 of the I.L.A. (International Longshoremen's Association) loaded scrap iron and unloaded loose lumber well into the middle of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of the Tockwotton Fox Point Cape Verdean Heritage Place at India Point Park will serve as a lasting tribute to the Cape Verdean legacy, celebrating their contributions as seafarers, laborers, factory workers, entrepreneurs, and community members, and acknowledging their unique cultural heritage that has enriched the fabric of our city; and

WHEREAS, The project will be led by founding project members John B. Cruz, III, President of Cruz Construction Co., Boston, Massachusetts, Kristina Stevens, Richard Williams, Arcadis Architects, Engineers and Landscape Architects, and supported by members of the Tockwotton Fox Point Cape Verdean Heritage Place at India Point Park Project, including Glynis Ramos-Mitchell, President; Claire Andrade-Watkins, Ph.D., Vice-President and Founding Project Director; Theresa J. Mello, Treasurer; Leah Hooks, Secretary; Charlene Andrade; Samantha P. DeAndrade, M.D., MPH; Steven Bento; Marshall Bento; Carol Harden Brito; Jamal Carvalho; David Craig; Michelle Cruz; Maria daGraca, John Goncalves; Olivia Ildefonso, Ph.D.; Ron Locke, Esq.; Cheryl Locke; Mingo Lopes; Natalie Lopes; Barry O'Connor; Michael Pereira; Katy Pickens; Anthony D. Ramos and Nathaniel Scott, (ancestors in memoriam; Carol R. Johnson, landscape architect; Marcia Andrade; Flo Bento; Harold Fontes; Eugene Joseph; Barbara Cohen Pippin); ensuring a design that reflects the community's heritage and values.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby expresses its strong support for the establishment of the Tockwotton Fox Point Cape Verdean Heritage Place at India Point Park as a means to honor the rich history and contributions of the Cape Verdean community in Providence.

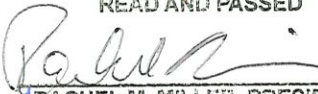

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council recognizes the historical and cultural significance of the proposed park location, commemorating the legacy of the Cape Verdean longshoremen of Local 1329 of the I.L.A. (International Longshoremen's Association), and the broader Cape Verdean community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council encourages the Board of Parks Commissioners to work collaboratively with the Tockwotton Fox Point Cape Verdean Heritage Place at India Point Park Project, and all stakeholders to facilitate the work necessary to realize the vision of the Tockwotton Fox Point Cape Verdean Heritage Place at India Point Park; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council commits to supporting the Tockwotton Fox Point Cape Verdean Heritage Place at India Point Park Project in efforts to secure funding, resources, and community engagement for the successful establishment of the park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, signifying the City Council's commitment to celebrating and preserving the Cape Verdean heritage in Providence for future generation.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JUL 11 2024  
READ AND PASSED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
Date: 7/17/2024