

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 131

Approved March 25, 2021

WHEREAS, On March 9, 2021 a fire broke out in a scrap yard on Allen's Avenue, causing thick clouds of toxic black smoke into the air; and

WHEREAS, Without the swift and professional intervention by the Providence Fire Department, the fire could have become substantially worse and put the entire community of South Providence at risk; and

WHEREAS, According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, the residential communities adjacent to the Port of Providence have some of the highest rates of childhood asthma and emergency department visits among children on Medicaid with asthma in the City of Providence; and

WHEREAS, The scrap yards and other businesses located around the Port of Providence have the potential to cause significant negative environmental and health impacts on the surrounding community without adequate environmental enforcement and compliance; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) is tasked with ensuring compliance with State and Federal environmental regulations by all businesses and property owners in the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Although this most recent incident did not result in any injuries or damage, it should serve as a wake-up call to the entire City that without proper oversight of the ongoing activities by the businesses around the Port of Providence it is only a matter of time before the surrounding communities are put in jeopardy due to a lack of environmental compliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby requests that the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management provide a copy of all Notices of Violation issued to businesses and property owners located in the Port of Providence for the past ten years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of Providence, the Rhode Island Attorney General, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the members of the Providence Delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL


MAR 18 2021

READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
Mayor  
Date: 3/25/21