



CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

## TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

DWIGHT T. MYERS

Traffic Engineer

ROGER T. CHANDLER

Assistant Traffic Engineer

147 Fountain Street

Providence 3, R. I.

January 16, 1953

The Honorable City Council  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island

Gentlemen:

At the request of Council Resolution #540, dated September 5, 1952, the Traffic Engineer has studied the advisability of installing traffic signal control at the intersection of Atwells Avenue, Academy Avenue and Putnam Street.

Investigations made by this Department showed that eight reported accidents of the crossing-maneuver type that might have been eliminated by signal installation occurred from January 1, 1950 to August 31, 1952.

Traffic volume counts taken at this intersection showed volumes high enough on both streets to warrant the installation of a traffic signal. Therefore, this intersection shall be placed under our 1953 program of intersections considered for traffic signal installation.

Very truly yours,

Dwight T. Myers  
Traffic Engineer

EFC/eg

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 5 - 1953

READ:

WHEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*W. Everett Whelan*  
CLERK



## CITY OF PROVIDENCE · RHODE ISLAND

## Office of the Harbor Master

10 Point Street

Providence, R. I.

January 16, 1953

From: Harbor Master  
 To: The Honorable City Council  
 Subject: Harbor Master's report for the three months beginning  
 October 1, 1952 and ending December 31, 1952.

Number of Vessels Arrived

Steamers	145
Motor Vessels	96
Tug Boats	106
Barges	44
Submarine	1
Dredge	1
Scows	4
	<u>397</u>

Oxide	1,750	Tons
Bituminous	254,429	"
Chemicals	6,200	"
Gasoline	452,987	"
Oil	906,802	"
Coke	5,340	"
Potash	1,285	"
Pig Iron	4,926	"
Asphalt	14,241	"
Lumber	30,828	"
Frozen Fish	1,181	"
Fish Meal	687	"
Solulius	834	"
Fish Oil	44	"
	<u>1,681,534</u>	Tons

IN CITY COUNCIL  
 FEB 5 - 1953

READ:  
 WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
 THIS REPORT BE RECORDED.

*W. Everett Whelan*  
 CLERK

Respectfully submitted,

*James J. Fisher*  
 James J. Fisher,  
 Harbor Master

# Weekly Report of the Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum.

To the Honorable Mayor and the Honorable the City Council of the City of Providence

The Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum herewith reports on admissions and discharges for the week ending January 18, 19 53

Admitted, 0 Discharged, 0 Remaining, 50

## ADMISSIONS

DATE	NAME	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	ADMITTED BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WELFARE

## DISCHARGES

NAME	DISCHARGED BY	NO.

Respectfully submitted,

*James V. McGovern* Superintendent  
Director of Public Welfare

In City Council, **FEB 5 - 1953**

Read, whereupon it is ordered that the same be received.

*W. Everett Wheland* Clerk.

Jan 19 11 31 AM '53  
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

WEEKLY REPORT  
OF THE  
DEXTER ASYLUM  
WEEK ENDING  
January 18, 1953

# Weekly Report of the Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum.

To the Honorable Mayor and the Honorable the City Council of the City of Providence

The Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum herewith reports on admissions and discharges for the week ending **January 25,** 19**53**

Admitted, 0 Discharged, 0 Remaining, 50

## ADMISSIONS

DATE	NAME	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	ADMITTED BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WELFARE

## DISCHARGES

NAME	DISCHARGED BY	NO.

Respectfully submitted,

*James V. McGovern* Superintendent  
Director of Public Welfare

**FEB 5 - 1953**  
In City Council, .....

Read, whereupon it is ordered that the same be received.

*W. Everett Whelan* Clerk.

WEEKLY REPORT

OF THE

DEXTER ASYLUM

WEEK ENDING

January 25, 1953

3

JAN 26 11 26 AM '53

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
PROVIDENCE, R

174 11 26 AM '53

# Weekly Report of the Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum.

To the Honorable Mayor and the Honorable the City Council of the City of Providence

The Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum herewith reports on admissions and discharges for the week ending February 1, 1953

Admitted, 0 Discharged, 0 Remaining, 50

## ADMISSIONS

DATE	NAME	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	ADMITTED BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WELFARE

## DISCHARGES

NAME	DISCHARGED BY	NO.

Respectfully submitted,

*James V. McGovern* Superintendent  
Director of Public Welfare

In City Council, FEB 5 - 1953

Read, whereupon it is ordered that the same be received.

*W. Everett Whelan* Clerk.

FEB 2 11 26 AM '53

DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WEEKLY REPORT

OF THE

DEXTER ASYLUM

WEEK ENDING

February 1, 1953



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
CITY PLAN COMMISSION  
City of Providence  
for the  
Fiscal Year Ended  
September 30, 1951



# City Plan Commission

GEORGE HURLEY, *Chairman*  
HECTOR D. LAUDATI      JERRY V. LORENZO

WALTER H. REYNOLDS, *Mayor*  
LUCIO E. CARLONE, *Secretary*

PAUL A. SAN SOUCI, *Vice Chairman*  
HARRY PINKERSON      EDWARD WINSOR

FRANK H. MALLEY, *Director*  
MILLARD HUMSTONE, *Senior Planner*

*Suite 103, City Hall,  
Providence 3, Rhode Island*

January 31, 1952

The Honorable Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor  
The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Providence  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of  
Chapter 329 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1938, and of  
Section 179½ of Chapter 2 of the Revised Ordinances of the City  
of Providence, 1946, the City Plan Commission submits herewith  
its Annual Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1951.

Respectfully yours,

*George Hurley*  
GEORGE HURLEY  
CHAIRMAN  
CITY PLAN COMMISSION

GH/veb

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 5 - 1953

RECD:

IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*Robert Whelan*  
CLERK

## BRIEFLY

1. Dynamic economic and social forces have made and are continuing to make serious impacts on many cities in our nation. In order to preserve and enlarge the many benefits that a metropolitan city can give to its citizens it is essential that there be continuing planning by skilled professionals. Only by this means can those responsible for City Government be advised and guided in making the necessary decisions effecting the life of our community.

2. In keeping with this kind of forward looking thinking Providence in 1944 established the present City Plan Commission Department consisting of a Commission of eight especially qualified citizens, and a technician staff now composed of ten.

3. The Department is required to prepare a Master Plan for the City of Providence and a Capital Improvement Program, and is directed to make plans for specific improvements and to recommend them to the Mayor and City Council. Major activities have been directed to the formulation of long-range plans, and to date the outstanding accomplishments of the Department are as follows, chronologically:

4. A PLAN FOR FIELDS POINT PORT AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT is being carried out by the successful development, through private enterprise, of Harborside Park.

5. MASTER PLAN FOR THOROFARES has resulted in the current detailed plans for the North-South Freeway which are expected to go into construction this coming year.

6. The MASTER PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS is being executed by the Redevelopment Agency through plans now being readied for action.

7. MASTER PLAN FOR LAND USE AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION was the basis for the ZONING ORDINANCE developed by the Department and now in effect through enactment by the City Council.

8. The CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM and CAPITAL BUDGET, prepared in collaboration with the Finance Director, have been accurately followed resulting in first things first, and in keeping the city's debt as low as possible.

9. The MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES provides the basis for the location and size of public schools which are being constructed as rapidly as times will permit.

10. PARKING IN DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE presents a problem which is being pursued in accordance with the Department's plans.

11. A MASTER PLAN FOR PLAYGROUNDS AND PLAYFIELDS has been authorized by the Commission and is in preparation by the staff.

12. REFERRALS from the City Council and Zoning Board of Review, totalling 104 items in these two categories alone during the current year have provided the Department with an opportunity to give further important advice on various phases of municipal activities.

13. CITY PLANNING is a continuing process in the preparation of additional plans and in the review and adjustment of plans previously prepared to keep them in harmony with current developments and acceptance and to reconcile professional thinking with public acceptance on the part of governmental officials and of the taxpaying citizen.

## I. ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

### A. Legal Basis

The City Plan Commission operates under two basic legal documents. The first is the State Enabling Act, which authorizes the cities and towns of Rhode Island to establish planning agencies, and which lists some of their powers and responsibilities. The second is the Ordinance adopted by the City Council in 1944, which prescribes the organization and specific duties of the City Plan Commission.

### B. Membership

The City Plan Commission consists of the Mayor (ex officio), five qualified citizens appointed by the Mayor, and two Councilmanic members elected by the City Council. The present members and officers are as follows:

Mr. George Hurley, Chairman	to January, 1954
Mr. Paul A. San Souci, Vice Chairman	to January, 1954
Mr. Lucio E. Carlone, Secretary	to January, 1955
Mayor Walter H. Reynolds	to January, 1953
Councilman Jerry Lorenzo	to January, 1953
Councilman Hector D. Laudati	to January, 1953
Mr. Donald E. Jackson (Resigned June, 1951)	to January, 1956
Mr. Harry Pinkerson	to January, 1953
Mr. Edward Winsor*	to January, 1956

### C. Staff

1. Technical work for the Commission is carried on by a staff headed by Director Frank H. Malley, appointed by the Commission. The present staff of the Department is as follows:

Mr. Charles R. Wood (Resigned-January, 1951)	Senior Planner
Mr. Lachlan F. Blair (Resigned-September, 1951)	Senior Planner
Mr. Millard Humstone*	Senior Planner
Mr. Hugh C. Faville	Associate Planner
Mr. John W. Ault	Associate Planner
Mr. Harold T. Toal	Associate Analyst
Mr. Harold T. Stearns	Planning Technician
Mr. Anthony A. Verrecchia	Planning Technician
Mr. Anthony N. Meleo	Asst. Planning Technician
Mr. Melvin St.J. Susi	Asst. Planning Technician
Mrs. Mary M. Hannan	Secretary
Mrs. Virginia E. Bohlin	Librarian-Stenographer

2. The Department operates under an annual budget of about \$44,000. Expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1951 and for the previous year 1949-1950, are tabulated in Appendix A.

\* Subsequent to the period covered herein, Mr. Winsor and Mr. Humstone joined the Department.

## D. Operations

1. The City Plan Department has a purely advisory function within the governmental structure. Its purpose is to give technical advice and assistance to the Council, the Mayor, and the various departments and boards of the City administration.
2. The Department's major role is the preparation of various elements of a master or general plan for the city of the future. These are developed by the staff and adopted by the Commission following public hearings.
3. All matters coming before the Council which deal with physical improvements within the City are required to be referred to the Commission for study and advisory opinions. In addition, the City Plan Director advises on all cases coming before the Zoning Board of Review. Since 1944, the Department has dealt with 364 City Council Referrals, as well as 266 Board of Review Referrals. In the majority of these cases, the recommendations have been followed, and this has resulted in the prevention of many undesirable conditions, as well as assisting in the achievement of improvements in the City. A tabulation of the past year's referrals is in Appendix B; Part I containing City Council Referrals, and Part II containing Zoning Board of Review Referrals.
4. The City Plan Commission publishes reports on each element of the Master Plan as it is completed. A list of the Master Plans and special reports which have been published since 1944 follows:

FUTURE POPULATION OF PROVIDENCE, 1945	(Out of Print)
A PLAN FOR FIELDS POINT PORT AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 1946	(Out of Print)
MASTER PLAN FOR THOROFARES, 1946 Amended in 1950	(Out of Print)
MASTER PLAN FOR LAND USE AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, 1946	(Out of Print)
MASTER PLAN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS, 1946	(Out of Print)
ZONING ORDINANCE, 1948 Approved in 1951	
MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES, 1950	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 1950-1956	
PARKING IN DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE, 1950	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, Supplement 1951-1957	

## II. MAJOR ACTIVITIES 1950-1951

A. A considerable analysis of the 1940 Census was made by the Department together with a projection of the future population of the City. This turned out to be a very close proximation to the actual 1950 census enumeration. There has been a continuing analysis of such population from the 1950 Census which will be followed in subsequent census enumerations. The school population was re-examined in collaboration with the Griffenhagen Study during the past year's activity in order to review the latest available figures relative to the probable school enrollments for the future.

B. The Capital Improvement Program was initiated in 1950 at the suggestion of Mayor Reynolds who was, at that time, Finance Director, and with whom in that capacity the Department is directed to collaborate. Such a program keeps departmental expenditures in proper relation to each other and to the general needs of the City, and avoids penalization of one department by disproportionate expenditures of another. It is an effective means of carrying out the plans of the City Plan Commission. This Capital Improvement Program is reviewed annually at which time the

Capital Budget for the coming year is presented to the City Council. During the year amendments to the Capital Budget are made when necessary and desirable.

C. The one improvement most important to the stabilization of the economy of Providence, and indeed Rhode Island, is the early completion of the North-South Freeway. To this end the Department has contributed to the continuing studies of the location of this traffic artery so that the tremendous expansion of traffic volumes can be adequately handled, and the business and industrial areas of the City and the State can be properly serviced with transportation facilities for people and goods. Without such a highway the life of the community will be strangled by ever mounting traffic congestion.

Numerous conferences have been held involving Federal, State, and City representatives with the consulting engineers preparing the constructing drawings. The City Plan Department assisted measurably in this work, especially in the protection of existing values and future developments that will be affected by this essential improvement.

D. One of the many opportunities for economic and efficient operation of the City deriving from the Capital Improvement Program is the possibility of consolidating garaging and repairing of municipal vehicles in perhaps two garage structures. A report on the size and location of such garages, including also a Central Purchasing Warehouse, resulted from an investigation by the City Plan Department. The construction of these facilities will give better garaging and repairing of municipal vehicles with the consequent improvement in vehicular operation and long-range savings in cost.

E. In accordance with the requirements of the Off-Street Parking Act (Chapter 2514, Public Laws 1950) the City Plan Department, in collaboration with the Redevelopment Agency and Traffic Engineer, prepared a comprehensive plan for PARKING IN DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE published in 1950. Commissioner Pinkerson was especially active in collaborating with the staff on off-street parking studies. At that time the voters approved a bond issue of \$1,700,000 for a start on the proposed program. To execute this plan, the most able consultants in the country were obtained to assist the City in the design of these garages. Reports and preliminary plans for garages on two desirable sites were prepared by the consultants, and the City is ready to proceed on one or both of them.

During this time the Pershing Square Parking Plaza had been constructed by the City and State, and the streets surrounding it improved by the State and Federal Governments. The City Plan Department, in addition to taking an active part in the development of the parking plans, prepared planting plans to beautify this area located just below the State House, and around which U.S. Route 1 proceeds. This landscape treatment improves the appearance of the general area while putting it to a functional use to help solve the parking problem.

F. Commissioner Lorenzo was particularly active in the collaboration related to a tree planting program for Providence streets.

G. The City Plan Commission has performed a peculiar, but nevertheless most valuable service, in making available to the Executive Department an Administrative Assistant in the person of Charles R. Wood. While Mr. Wood was doing an admirable job with the Plan Commission, it was felt that his talents could be put to broader use in the Executive Office. This has been well proven, and Mr. Wood, in his present position, has assisted greatly in executing the planning program of the City Plan Commission.

H. Work was started in May on a MASTER PLAN FOR PLAYGROUNDS AND PLAYFIELDS. There will be two different phases to consider: (1) What can be done in the immediate future; and (2) Where is the greatest long-range need for recreation. Due to the various capital improvement needs of the City, the Master Plan will have to allow for a minimum expenditure for recreation.

I. During the year, the staff of the Department worked on Area Planning Studies, which were financed by the Federal Government under the Housing Act of 1949. It was a three-way study, participated in by the Health Department, Redevelopment Agency, and the Plan Department. The staff worked on seven of the seventeen Redevelopment Areas which the City Council had designated. Twelve survey areas were authorized for study by the Government.

J. In 1950 the City Plan Commission published a MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES in collaboration with the School Department as a guide to the development of school buildings to replace obsolete structures and to be in the right location and of correct size for the present and future school enrollment in various neighborhoods of the City.

The Fox Point School, shortly going into construction, is the first of a series of fourteen new elementary schools to be constructed in the course of time to replace forty buildings now in operation. This program will not only give adequate housing to elementary education, but will be vastly more economical to operate. The second school authorized for South Providence will be built in accordance with the Master Plan and at the earliest possible date at which the debt service can be absorbed by the City. The overall plan will be constantly reviewed in regard to population shifts, and each new school constructed will be located in the area where the greatest good can be gained. The program is to be coordinated with the development of recreation facilities so that elementary schools and playgrounds can be located as nearly adjacent as possible.

K. The City Plan Department has participated actively with the Traffic Engineer and the United Transit Company in the study and development of a report on a Traffic-Transit Integration Plan for Providence. This was financed jointly by the City and the UTC, and resulted in recommendations shortly to be presented. These traffic and transit improvements fit into the long-range plan of the City Plan Commission with regard to the planning of the North-South Freeway and other arteries, off-street parking, and service to commercial and industrial areas, both existing and proposed. The forthcoming report is looked upon by the Commission as the Traffic and Transit element of the City's comprehensive Master Plan.

L. Providence has long had zoning, but in over one quarter of a century it had been allowed to become obsolete. The City Plan Department spent two years in preparing a new modern ordinance which was exhaustively reviewed by the City Council and enacted in September of 1951.

Like the Capital Improvement Program, zoning is one of the most important devices for developing the City in accordance with sound city planning principals. Areas have been allocated to industrial, commercial, and residential uses with elbow room in each area for any possible expansion. The Commission constantly advises the City Council, and the Director acts as technical advisor to the Board of Review, regarding zoning changes so that the best possible affect will be derived from the ordinance. The new ordinance will be continually in mind for desirable amendments to assure that it is kept modern and abreast of the best current practices in zoning.

# APPENDIX A

## Expenditures and Appropriations of the City Plan Department

	<u>Expenditures</u>	
	1949-1950	1950-1951
PERSONAL SERVICES (Salaries, etc.)	\$ 37,192.34	\$ 28,437.85*
OTHER SERVICES (Printing, Transportation, Miscellaneous, Fees)	3,719.52	3,376.22
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES (Stationery and Office Supplies)	944.67	820.29
EQUIPMENT	<u>318.93</u>	<u>434.24</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 42,175.46	\$ 33,068.60
Appropriation	<u>44,318.92</u>	<u>43,012.72</u>
Difference (Returned to General Fund)	\$ 2,143.46	\$ 9,944.12

\* The large difference between the two fiscal years, 1949-1950 and 1950-1951, in regard to Personal Services, was due to the fact that during the last fiscal year the payroll of the City Plan Department was paid in part by the Federal Government for work conducted on the Area Planning Studies. This amount of \$5,350.35 is not included above.



APPENDIX B  
PART I

Summary of Action Taken on Petitions

Referred from City Council

1950-1951

Subject	Total No. Of Referrals	City Plan Commission Action		Subsequent Action by City Council and Mayor		No Action
		No Objection	Recommended Denial	In Accord With CPC Recommendation	Opposite to CPC Recommendation	
Zoning Amendments	9	3	6	3	1 (1)**	5
Abandonment of Streets	1	1				1
Layouts for Subdivisions	1		1		1 (1)	
Sale or Lease of City-owned Property	25*	21	4	16	1 (1)	8
Redemptions of Tax Title Pro- perty	12	8	4	8		4
Miscellaneous	<u>7</u> 55	<u>6</u> 39	<u>1</u> 16	<u>4</u> 31	<u>      </u> 3 (3)	<u>3</u> 21

\* The total number of referrals is 17, with one referral containing 9 parts.

\*\* The figures in parentheses indicate the number of petitions granted by the City Council following City Plan Commission recommendation for denial.

APPENDIX B  
PART II

Summary of Action on Referrals from  
the Zoning Board of Review  
through September 30, 1951

<u>Total No. Of Referrals</u>	<u>Plan Department Action</u>		<u>Subsequent Action By Board of Review</u>	
	<u>No Objection</u>	<u>Recommended Denial</u>	<u>In Accord With CPC Recommendation</u>	<u>Opposite to CPC Recommendation</u>
49	17	32	31	18 (18)*

\* The figure in parentheses indicates the number of changes granted by the Board of Review following City Plan Commission Director's recommendations for denial.