

**CITY OF PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND**



CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 9 City Council Special Meeting, Thursday, March 20, 2014, 7:15 o'clock P.M.


PRESIDING

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT
MICHAEL A. SOLOMON**

ROLL CALL

**PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT SOLOMON, COUNCILMAN APONTE,
COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO, COUNCILMAN HASSETT,
COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI, COUNCILMAN JACKSON,
COUNCILMAN JENNINGS, COUNCILWOMAN MATOS,
COUNCILMAN PRINCIPE, COUNCILMAN SALVATORE,
COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ, COUNCILMAN YURDIN, COUNCILMAN ZURIER
ABSENT: COUNCILMAN CORREIA, COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI**

**ALSO PRESENT: LORI L. HAGEN, SECOND DEPUTY CITY CLERK AND
JEFFREY M. PADWA, CITY SOLICITOR**

**IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 05 2014**
APPROVED:  CLERK
ACTING

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COUNCILMAN YURDIN Moves to Dispense with the Reading of the foregoing matters, seconded by COUNCILMAN JENNINGS.

CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING

COMMUNICATION FROM

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MICHAEL SOLOMON

Request filed with the City Clerk March 18, 2014, Requesting a Special Meeting of the City Council to be Called on the 20th day of March, 2014, Upon the Rise of the 7:00 o'clock P.M. Regular City Council Meeting, in the City Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

RESULT: RECEIVED

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL MEETING

Warrant of the City Clerk to the City Sergeant with Return Certification that he has notified each Member of the City Council of the Special Meeting Called for the 20th day of March, 2014, Upon the Rise of the 7:00 o'clock P.M. Regular City Council Meeting, in the City Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

RESULT: RECEIVED

REPORT(S) FROM COMMITTEE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION COUNCILMAN SAMUEL D. ZURIER, Chairman

**Transmits the Following with Recommendation the Same be Severally
Approved:**

**COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO, COUNCILWOMAN MATOS, COUNCILMAN
PRINCIPE, COUNCILMAN SALVATORE, COUNCIL PRESIDENT SOLOMON,
COUNCILMAN APONTE, COUNCILMAN CORREIA, COUNCILMAN
HASSETT, COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI, COUNCILMAN JACKSON,
COUNCILMAN JENNINGS, COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI, COUNCILMAN
SANCHEZ, COUNCILMAN YURDIN, COUNCILMAN ZURIER**

Resolution Urging the School Board to lower the distance requirement for receiving a free school bus pass from a three-mile radius to a two-mile radius.

WHEREAS, In order to be eligible for a free student bus pass, Providence public high school students must live outside of a three-mile radius of their school; and

WHEREAS, Limiting bus passes to only those who live outside a three-mile radius places an undue burden on students, causing tardiness, absenteeism, and placing financial strain on many families; and

WHEREAS, Many students who are ineligible for school bus passes report walking for an hour or more each way just to get to and from their high school; and

WHEREAS, Without a school bus pass, taking RIPTA buses to school costs families up to \$5 per day per student; and

WHEREAS, A family with two children enrolled in high school taking RIPTA to and from school every day without a free school bus pass would spend \$1,800 per year on their children's transportation; and

WHEREAS, Providence's three-mile walking distance is the largest such requirement in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, According to Serve Rhode Island, no other public school system in New England requires that students live more than three miles away from their school to receive a bus pass; and

WHEREAS, Boston, Fall River, Hartford, and Worcester all use a two-mile radius requirement for school bus passes; and

WHEREAS, Providence sees a greater increase in daily absenteeism rates between the winter and non-winter seasons than any other Rhode Island public school district; and

WHEREAS, According to Serve Rhode Island, the average daily absenteeism rate in Providence last winter was more than double the absenteeism rate during the spring, whereas East Providence, Cumberland, Bristol-Warren, and West Warwick - which all have walk distances of two miles or less - saw an increase in winter absenteeism of only 1.91%; and

WHEREAS, According to Providence Student Union students cannot reasonably be expected to learn and perform at their best in the classroom if they must walk such long distances in winter weather before the school day has even begun.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby urge the Providence School Board to provide funding in its 2014-15 budget to expand subsidized transportation for high school students, including those who live between two and three miles from their school, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby urge the Providence School Board to look at other issues related to student transportation, including pedestrian access issues that may exist in addition to the issue of distance "as the crow flies"; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council requests that the Providence School Board consider all possible funding sources (including anticipated increases in State aid and reallocation of existing spending) to pay for the increased transportation service to high school students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the Providence School Board.

Read and Passed, on Motion of COUNCILMAN YURDIN, Seconded by COUNCILMAN JENNINGS.

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| RESULT: | READ AND PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Seth Yurdin, Councilman |
| SECONDER: | Wilbur W. Jennings, Councilman |
| AYES: | Solomon, Aponte, Castillo, Hassett, Igliozi, Jackson, Jennings, Matos, Principe, Salvatore, Sanchez, Yurdin, Zurier – 13. |
| ABSENT: | Correia, Narducci – 2. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI, COUNCILMAN HASSETT, COUNCIL PRESIDENT SOLOMON, COUNCILMAN APONTE, COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO, COUNCILMAN CORREIA, COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI, COUNCILMAN JACKSON, COUNCILMAN JENNINGS, COUNCILWOMAN MATOS, COUNCILMAN PRINCIPE, COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ, COUNCILMAN YURDIN

Resolution Urging the General Assembly to revise the School Aid Funding Formula "core instruction amount" (Section 16-7.2-3) to include reasonable transportation expense as part of the 2014-15 State Budget.

RESOLVED, That the Members of the City Council hereby Urge that General Assembly revise the school aid funding formula "core instruction amount" (Section 16-7.2-3) to include reasonable transportation expense as part of the 2014-15 State Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the City's General Assembly delegation.

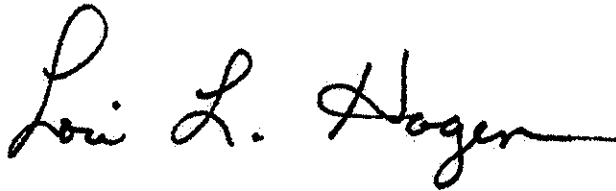
Read and Passed, on Motion of COUNCILMAN YURDIN, Seconded by COUNCILMAN JENNINGS.

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| RESULT: | READ AND PASSED [UNANIMOUS] |
| TO: | Special Committee on Education |
| MOVER: | Seth Yurdin, Councilman |
| SECONDER: | Wilbur W. Jennings, Councilman |
| AYES: | Solomon, Aponte, Castillo, Hassett, Igliazzi, Jackson, Jennings, Matos, Principe, Salvatore, Sanchez, Yurdin, Zurier – 13. |
| ABSENT: | Correia, Narducci – 2. |

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

CONVENTION

There being no further business, on Motion of **COUNCILMAN YURDIN**, Seconded by **COUNCILMAN JENNINGS**, it is voted to adjourn at 7:30 o'clock P.M., to meet again **THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lori L. Hagen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

LORI L. HAGEN
SECOND DEPUTY CITY CLERK

**This meeting was recorded and the video may be viewed on demand via the internet.
Please visit the City Clerk web site or contact us directly for details.**