

The City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

CHAPTER 1973-15

No. 146 **AN ORDINANCE** AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1972-32, APPROVED JUNE 23, 1972, BY APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF FOUR MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR (\$4,360,884.00) DOLLARS TO VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF, TITLE I REVENUE SHARING, FISCAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ALLOCATED TO THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

Approved March 19, 1973

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

SECTION 1. Whereas, the receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1973 amounting to \$76,106,921.00 is hereby amended to include or increase receipts in the amount of \$4,360,884.00 as follows:

ADD:

FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING - - - - - \$4,360,884.00
(Four Million Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Four Dollars)

TOTAL RECEIPTS AMENDED TO: - - - - - \$80,467,805.00
(Eighty Million Four Hundred Sixty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Five Dollars)

SECTION 2. Chapter 1972-32 of the Ordinances of the City of Providence approved June 23, 1972 is hereby further amended by appropriating the sum of Four Million Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Four (\$4,360,884.00) Dollars as follows:

1) POLICE DEPARTMENT

Item 0	\$ 420,000.00
Item 2	70,000.00
Item 5	170,950.00
<u>TOTAL-POLICE DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>\$ 660,950.00</u>

2) FIRE DEPARTMENT

Item 0	\$ 410,000.00
Item 1	70,000.00
*Item 5	1,462,610.00
*Renovations Bldg.	\$ 62,610.00
Fire Fighting Equip	650,000.00
New Station (Land & Building)	750,000.00
<u>TOTAL-FIRE DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>\$ 1,942,610.00</u>

3) DEPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

Item 1	\$ 30,000.00
<u>TOTAL-DEPT OF COMMUNICATIONS</u>	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>

4) FINANCE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Item 5	\$ 24,000.00
<u>TOTAL-FINANCE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE</u>	<u>\$ 24,000.00</u>

5) DATA PROCESSING SECTION

Item 1	\$ 50,000.00
<u>TOTAL-DATA PROCESSING SECTION</u>	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>

6) PUBLIC WORKSA) Highway Section

Item 1	\$ 100,000.00
Item 2	120,000.00
Item 5	129,340.00

<u>Total-Highway Section</u>	<u>\$ 349,340.00</u>
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B) Sewage Pumping Stations

Item 5	\$ 200,000.00
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<u>Total-Sewage Pumping Station</u>	<u>\$ 200,000.00</u>
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C) Street Lighting

Item 1	\$ 50,000.00
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<u>Total-Street Lighting</u>	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>
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D) Municipal Docks

Item 5	\$ 80,000.00
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<u>Total-Municipal Docks</u>	<u>\$ 80,000.00</u>
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E) Garbage Collection and Disposal

Item 5	\$ 50,000.00
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<u>Total-Garbage Collection and Disposal</u>	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>
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<u>**TOTAL-PUBLIC WORKS</u>	<u>**\$ 729,340.00</u>
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7) RECREATION

Item 5

Capital Improvements-Bldgs	\$ 300,000.00
New Skating Rinks	400,000.00

<u>TOTAL-RECREATION</u>	<u>\$ 700,000.00</u>
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8) ELDERLY MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

Item 5	\$ 50,000.00
<u>TOTAL-ELDERLY MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER</u>	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>

9) DEPT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Item 1	\$ 100,000.00
Item 5	36,984.00
<u>TOTAL-DEPT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY</u>	<u>\$ 136,984.00</u>

10) PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Item 3	\$ 37,000.00
<u>TOTAL-PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY</u>	<u>\$ 37,000.00</u>

GRAND TOTAL: - - - - - \$ 4,360,884.00

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

IN CITY
COUNCIL
MAR 1 - 1973
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED
Ursula M. Lippie
CLERK

APPROVED
MAR 19 1973
Joseph H. Corley
MAYOR

IN CITY
COUNCIL
MAR 15 1973
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED
Robert J. Rafter
PRESIDENT
Ursula M. Lippie
CLERK

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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PROCEEDINGS AT PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: SPECIAL MEETING OF
FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE

* * * * *

February 8, 1973
7:30 p.m., Thursday
Providence City Hall

BEFORE:

Robert F. Lynch, Chairman
Donald E. McKiernan, Councilman
Salvatore A. Beatini, Councilman
Francis J. Darrigan, Councilman
William G. Bradshaw, Councilman

City Clerk: Vincent Vespia

The CHAIRMAN. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a special meeting of the Finance Committee of the Providence City Council. At this time, I would like to introduce the members of the Committee. On my immediate left is Councilman Donald E. McKiernan, Vice Chairman of the Committee who represents Ward 10. On my right is Councilman Salvatore A. Beatini, Ward 4, who is also the President pro tempore of the City Council. On my far left is Councilman Francis J. Darrigan of Ward 9, and on my far right is Councilman William G. Bradshaw, representing Ward 2 and is also the Deputy Minority Leader of the City Council. I am Councilman Robert F. Lynch, Committee Chairman, and I represent the Fifth Ward of the City of Providence.

Presently, the Finance Committee is considering an ordinance dealing with the proposed allocation of approximately \$4.3 Million in Federal fiscal assistance to various departments, as proposed by Mayor Joseph A. Doorley, Jr. and his Administration.

As was stated in the advertisement which appeared in both the Providence Journal and the Evening Bulletin of this past Monday, February 5, 1973, this ordinance is the sole purpose of this hearing. The Committee has this ordinance under consideration. The members have

questioned the Mayor and the members of his Administration concerning the proposed distribution of funds.

I might add, we have not finished our consideration of the funding and we still have questions to ask concerning the spending. We decided to have this public hearing to listen to various citizens of the city and to have them voice, number one, their approval of the proposed ordinance, number two, their disapproval of the proposed ordinance, and their reasons for their disapproval, or number three, alternative suggestions on their part for the distribution of some or all of these funds. This, then, is meant to be truly a hearing by the Committee regarding the proposed ordinance. Any person who wishes to speak will concern himself, or herself, strictly with the proposed revenue sharing ordinance.

Inasmuch as the hearing is for the purpose of the Committee's assimilation of information concerning the ordinance, the members of the Committee will entertain no questions on the part of the speakers, but will direct themselves to the information which is submitted by the various speakers. We had thought of limiting each speaker to five minutes, but I might add at this point, we have some fifty-seven persons who have registered to

speak to the Committee. As I said, we had thought of limiting each speaker to five minutes speaking time; however, we have not done that. On this basis, I would request that each speaker try to limit his time as best possible out of a sense of fairness to the other persons in the Council Chamber who wish to be heard.

I cannot speak for the members of the Committee, but I discussed this with all of the members of the Committee beforehand, and they told me that I can speak for them. I personally am not impressed at all with loud vociferous, rude behavior on the part of any of the people in attendance. The Committee is willing to sit and listen to the comments of anyone present within the bounds of propriety and sensibility. However, inasmuch as this is a voluntary public hearing of the Committee, and we are meeting here without any mandate from the City, State or Federal Government, the Chair wishes to caution all present that it will not tolerate the badgering of any members of the Committee, nor will it tolerate any raucous behavior on the part of any person or group present.

I assure you, that should any of the preceding conditions occur, I will immediately adjourn this hearing.

As I call the names of the various speakers, I

would request that they approach the microphone in the front, give their name, their address, and their organizational affiliation, if they are connected with or representing any organization; then they can proceed with their comments.

The first name on the list is that of Joan Gelch, League of Women Voters.

Joan GELCH, 25 Margrave Avenue in Providence. I am the President of the League of Women Voters of Providence. First, I would like to thank you gentlemen for giving me this opportunity to speak. In light of recent announcements concerning cutbacks in Federal funding of various community services involved in the area of human resources, funds from general revenue sharing take on a new importance. They must be used to help the local government maintain vital services for its citizens.

The League of Woman Voters of Providence agrees with most of the Mayor's proposals for distribution of general revenue sharing funds. Public safety is a concern of all the citizens of Providence, and much of the money is designated for the Police and Fire Departments. We do strongly believe that the allocation of \$700,000 for recreation, including a major portion being

given for a skating rink, requires more thought.

Although recreational facilities are important, the more basic needs of our citizenry should not become of secondary importance. We, therefore, request that the Providence Community Action Program, or Progress for Providence, be the recipient of some of the revenue sharing funds.

According to OEO guidelines, Progress for Providence is authorized to initiate community action programs through OEO funding. Present programs in danger of being discontinued due to Federal cutbacks are, one, a drug program based at the Potters Avenue Center with a total budget of \$90,000. The Progress for Providence allocation of \$40,000 from Federal funds will now be cut off. Two, nine Progress for Providence health centers with a total budget of \$3,748,076. The Progress for Providence allocation of \$100,000 from Federal funds will now be cut off.

Vincent Vespia, Chairman of the Board, stated that this is one of the most successful programs.

Three, a housing program costing \$76,000 whereby low and middle income homes are being built throughout the city. Over 300 families have taken advantage of this program in the past three years and thirteen more

are now waiting for their home construction to be completed. The entire \$76,000 will be cut.

All of these programs can be funded through general revenue sharing according to the guidelines in the General Revenue Sharing Act in the categories of health and social services for the poor and the aged. Our national government is substituting defense for human needs. The City of Providence cannot allow its needy citizens to suffer while waiting for a re-ordering of national priorities.

The Providence League of Women Voters, therefore, implores the City Administration to allocate at least \$216,000 of revenue sharing funds for the Providence Community Action Program, Progress for Providence.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Gelch. The next speaker on the list is Father Jack Mimnaugh.

Father Jack MIMNAUGH. I am a member of PACE, People Acting Through Community Effort, 239 Oxford Street, Providence. This is the second time within a month that PACE organization, which is an umbrella organization trying to bring together block clubs, neighborhood people, citizens, and taxpayers, various community groups in the City of Providence together,

has filled these Council halls. We are very happy that this evening you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Committee, have given us the opportunity to speak. At the last City Council meeting, we asked for time to speak and we were not allowed to speak. This evening we have come back again and we have a whole list of people who represent different groups within the City of Providence who would like to address their concerns for their neighborhoods, for their groups have special interests concerning the spending of revenue sharing funds in the City of Providence.

I would like each of the groups, as they do come up, to express not only as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, their names, addresses, the organization they represent, but also the number of people that they represent in that organization and to state that they are here tonight agreeing with the PACE demands that will be spoken of by many of the people coming up tonight.

I would like now for you, Mr. Chairman, to continue the list, as I think the next thirty or forty names are people who have come here this evening with PACE and other Senior Citizens action groups and other organizations who are working with a coalition of groups in the City of Providence in order to bring about a fair share

of revenue sharing funds for those who are most needy in our City.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Father. The next person on the list is Delores Farais.

Delores FARAIS, 88 Ford Street, Providence. I am the Treasurer of PACE. Revenue sharing is now a reality. It became a reality only after a long bitter and hard fought fight. One of the leaders in this fight, as we all know, is Mayor Doorley. The Mayor argued his case to the Federal Government strongly and vehemently. The nucleus of this argument was that the City of Providence ought to receive back from the Federal Government its fair share of the taxes paid by the taxpayers of Providence to the Federal Government each year.

We the members of PACE are now doing exactly the same thing that the Mayor did. As representatives of four committees within the City of Providence, we are demanding that the Mayor now give us a fair share of the revenue earmarked for the City of Providence. Our request is for a fair share of the revenue.

With the advent of revenue sharing, there is a demise of Federally funded programs which were created and designed to assist communities such as those repre-

sented by PACE. PACE recognizes full well there are other communities in the City of Providence that have needs and problems that require funding to alleviate them -- if possible, eliminate .

What we from PACE are asking for is nothing more, and certainly nothing less, than our fair share. During the fiscal year '72-'73, the Federal Government has earmarked \$4.3Million to the City of Providence. There are no strings attached. The administering of these funds is left solely up to the Mayor and the Finance Committee. The Federal Government does provide the City with guidelines that it should follow in allocating the revenue that it receives. Therefore, it is logically assumed that the Mayor and his Finance Committee will establish priorities on the basis of need, and certainly no one could argue that our four communities are not in much need.

PACE certainly does not believe that the Providence Police Department and the Providence Fire Department is entitled to receive approximately fifty percent of the entire \$4.3Million. I would point out that with regards to the Police Department, it is still eligible and presently receiving LEAA funds from the Federal Government, subsidies from Model Cities. PACE believes that an

equitable budget of revenue can and should be achieved with the taxpayer in the preparation of priorities.

Yesterday a group from PACE went to the City Hall to get answers to questions about the recreation bond spending which we are vitally interested in. We were sent from one City official to the other, and finally got rather dubious answers to our questions. The officials' answers raised more questions that we feel need to be investigated by the City Finance Committee, before more money is committed to recreation spending. Eighty thousand dollars listed in 1964 and 1965....

The CHAIRMAN. Direct yourself to the matter at hand. We are talking about the revenue sharing. You are talking about something in the past. I wish you would maintain your comments in the direction of the present \$4.3 Million revenue sharing for which we are considering.

D. FARAIS. All right. I feel that these other things do bear on the fact that more money is going to be spent in the field of recreation, for which we don't have any answers to the old questions.

What we would like to know in the end is where the \$300,000 revenue sharing recreation renovation is going to be spent, and would also like you to look over

the facts on this sheet and investigate this along with what you are planning to do in the future. We would like to know where the money is going to be spent, where the locations are. We feel this is our money. We are the taxpayers and we have a right to know how it was spent in the past and where it is going in the future.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Charlotte Thibault.

Charlotte THIBEAULT, 154 Chapin Avenue, representing PACE. I am representing the Althea-Asa Messer-Willow PTA and partially representing Chapin Avenue Block Club. I would like to talk about the nine building department inspector job vacancies. Revenue sharing funds are going to be allocated to Mr. DiMase's office as we understand. After talking to Mr. DiMase, last year over 300 houses were torn down in Providence. Many of these houses stood vacant for months. We feel that a top priority should be given to filling vacancies. When one must walk down the street and see empty shells of houses, we feel that this is a top priority.

We have checked the City budget. There are line item figures for these jobs. If the jobs are not filled the money goes into a general fund which Mayor Doorley can spend as he pleases. We would want these jobs filled

so that the money goes where it is meant to go rather than funneled off into other areas.

If there is not enough money to pay the salaries -- Mr. DiMase says there is not enough money -- they have \$40,000. If they get another \$100,000, it is worthwhile to offer more money. Our houses are endangered. Our lives are endangered. Our communities are endangered -- not just in PACE areas but throughout the City of Providence where people move out of homes. Children all over the City throw rocks at windows. Once they are broken the fires are set. We need inspectors to keep on top of these houses. We need inspectors to make sure more homes are not destroyed. We need homes in Providence. It's becoming a ghost city.

With more inspectors on in Mr. DiMase's office, we will have a good watchdog to make sure these houses are not left vacant and vandalized. If Mayor Doorley is willing to use the revenue sharing money to increase police and firemen salaries, I think these inspectors are just as important.

Our firemen's lives are endangered. It's come to the point where they don't want to come to these vacant houses. They have asked the public last July 4 -- the people were on the street for our concern, for our police

and our firemen, and ourselves, and we would want the revenue sharing money to go to offering more money to encourage more people to fill these vacancies. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mrs. Thibeault. Edward Thibeault.

Edward THIBEAULT, 154 Chapin Avenue. I represent the Chapin Avenue Block Club. My dubious task tonight is to talk about dogs -- man's best friend. In the City of Providence, the proposal is to have one dog officer on a shift, and this dog officer must clean kennels, feed dogs at the Pond and so forth and so forth. We the people of PACE and Chapin Avenue -- in fact the entire City of Providence -- would benefit by having more dog officers on, like in the case of the City of Warwick which have three dog officers on a shift and three vans.

We would wish that the Finance Committee would appropriate more funds towards this. It is pretty sickening when your daughter goes to school and comes home soiled by stray dogs, and we would wish that the Finance Committee would push for more dog officers and vans to pick up these stray dogs. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mr. Thibeault. Joseph Cardoza, please.

Joseph CARDOZA, 216 Bellevue Avenue. I am the Chairman of the West End and a long-time member of PACE. What I have in my hand here is a petition from all of our neighbors on all of the streets, and all of the businessmen in West End. We would like to have a youth center. The Mayor stated that he would spend money all over the City of Providence with this revenue sharing. Now, we were just asking if he would spend a little in the West End, which is a big area.

I have an eleven year old son, as I stated on television. He has to go to Olneyville Boys Club. That place is packed tight and they do not want our kids from the West End there. See, the West End, whether some of the people know it or not, it's a very big area. It runs from Westminster Street to Elmwood Avenue, and from down to the Hoyle Square and on up to Huntington Expressway.

What we are asking for, if the Mayor is going to set up a skating rink, which would cost \$80,000 and what we are asking for is \$70,000 -- we have even went out and did our own homework -- we got the building already and we sent in a proposal and everything for this place. The building runs 100 feet long, 30 feet wide, and there are four floors. This is not only for

the young people; this is for the elderly also. We are Senior Citizens who can use this building.

This is to try to keep the kids off the street away from dope. Now myself, at the Cumberland Farms, quite awhile back, we had the kids chased off the corners, and are continually chasing the kids. I think it's about time we did something to help the children and try to prevent crime. We probably won't have crime, we probably won't have our kids on drugs, if it is properly supervised.

I know some of the people are going to say you had a center over there before. That center was not properly supervised. We will have two blacks, a male and a female; we will have two whites, a male and a female. We will have also the director and we will also have a janitor, and this will be properly supervised. All we are asking is to give us a chance and see what we can do up there.

We still, as I stated, we do not have anyplace for our children to go. If anybody says that the people in that area do not want this, I wish they'd come and confront me. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Cardoza. If you would like to leave that petition, feel welcome to do so.

Mr. CARDOZA. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. The next name on the list is that of ROSE TRIDENTI.

Rose TRIDENTI, 202 Bellevue Avenue, West End.

I represent the Senior Citizens Action Group of Rhode Island, 1200 members, and I am Chairman of that group. I also am a member of PACE.

As a property owner and member of the Senior Citizens of Rhode Island Action Group, I ask that the Finance Committee act immediately on the petition that will grant a thousand dollar tax exemption for Senior Citizens of Providence and recommend it for passage by the City Council.

A similar resolution was submitted to the Finance Committee in the summer of 1971 and was allowed to die in Committee. We ask that this petition be brought out alive.

Property taxes in Providence takes a big chunk out of our small incomes, that it is often necessary to give up our cherished homes where we have lived for years and brought up our children. With nearly thirty percent of the elderly in Providence living on less than \$2,000 a year and many others just above this poverty line, it is often necessary to give up our homes. Where do we go?

We become prey to greedy landlords who demand high rents for small substandard apartments, while we compete with 1200 other citizens for an opening in one of the high risers. Can't Providence do better than this?

The Senior Citizens of Rhode Island Action Group ask that you include in the exemption the Senior Citizens who own and occupy a dwelling with three or less apartments. If we are to maintain our homes, it is absolutely necessary that we rent out apartments and we should not be refused an exemption for doing so. Only the rich can do otherwise.

A resolution has recently been submitted to the House of Representatives granting the Seniors of Central Falls a similar exemption. Why not the Senior Citizens of Providence? Mr. Sheehan, the Tax Assessor for Providence, estimates, based on Pawtucket's experience, that it could cost the City of Providence approximately \$345,000 a year. This money could very easily come out of the \$4.3Million of revenue sharing for the Senior Citizens. What we want is action on this. The Senior Citizens of Providence want action on this property. Okay?

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Tridenti. The next speaker is Evelyn Lanois. Before you speak, I would

request that the people in attendance in the audience would kindly afford the people that are speaking the same privilege that was given to them when they spoke. Don't carry on any conversations while the person is speaking. It's at least common courtesy. You may proceed.

Evelyn LANOIS. I belong to the West End Action Club, 71 Sorrento Street. I would like the Committee to consider the Senior Citizens when allotting the \$4.3Million. Thirty years ago, my taxes were \$120 and this year they are \$420. Of course, I am 76 and we could meet the bills when my husband lived, but now it is a little difficult. I am on a limited income and I think that a good thing to do to make the old folks feel better would be for the Committee to allot some of the money to allow the \$53 off of the tax bill. Even that would be a gift.

So I come to ask for the consideration. Thirty-two towns give a reduction, some of them with no strings attached. You can have any amount of income, but for us people with small incomes, it is very difficult. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Veronica Murray please.

Veronica MURRAY, 17 Sumter Street. I am representing the Lenox Avenue-Sumter Street Block Club. I am very interested in some of this revenue sharing money being used for property tax exemption for the elderly homeowners in my neighborhood. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Velma Rhodes? Don Fisher? Joe Leal? Do we have a Mrs. Mortensen present?

Lillian MORTENSEN, 40 Superior Street, Providence. I am with the Ford-Superior Block Club and also a member of PACE. We the people in the West End would like to see a youth center. Our kids are roaming the streets and we know the Mayor has the money, and well, we want our youth took care of because they are the citizens of tomorrow. The only way we are going to have good citizens, we have got to have good kids, and you're not going to get good kids hanging on the street corners, so how about a youth center? Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Stinson Fowler? Mrs. James?

Mrs. C. THIBEAULT. I'm sorry, Mrs. James requested that I speak for her this evening.

The CHAIRMAN. You have already spoken. If

you want to submit that presentation, that is fine.

Mrs. THIBEAULT. Yes, I would, please.

The CHAIRMAN. It looks like Corrina Pridokas.

Mr. E. THIBEAULT. She is not here, but I would like to submit this for her.

The CHAIRMAN. Julia Brown please.

Julia BROWN, 283 Waldo Street. I represent the Waldo-Wadsworth Block Club, in behalf of sharing the money with the people to a greater need for a youth center at the West End. We badly need this and under good and well supervision, I believe this would stop an awful lot of vandalism up there in West End. So I hope that the Finance Committee, please take this in great consideration that we need a youth center up in the West End. I think we need it much more than the skating rink at Mount Pleasant.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Sister Ellen.

Sister Ellen SCHADE. I live at Dexter Street in Providence. I am representing a number of Sisters in the Assumption community. We feel that the priorities listed by the Mayor in the revenue sharing bill are out of line with what we believe as christians. First of all, we believe that recreation is important but we

feel that the people, and particularly the people with children in our area whom we serve, need the money more.

Consider the money being better spent for education.

We feel that a bookmobile is not enough money being spent on education out of \$4.3Million. We also feel that a youth center and dog officers, and also some traffic signs limiting the speed in our school areas would be more in line with our priorities. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much Sister.

Mrs. Billings, please.

Helen BILLINGS, 155 Oak Street. I represent the Oak Street Block Club and am on the Executive Board of PACE. We would like to see some of this money used to lighten the property tax burden for the elderly and low income families. Our elderly are making tremendous sacrifices. We feel this is one of the greatest needs in our community. Let this money truly be revenue sharing and let us not forget our elderly and low income families, and also to use the money to finance a concentrated dog pick up in our neighborhoods.

We find the dogs a menace and by their sheer numbers present a threat to our children and our elderly and another important need for our children and our children's protection is twenty-mile an hour signs

posted near the schools in West End. As the traffic engineer has a limited budget, revenue sharing money can be used to purchase these signs. I would like to submit this paper from the Oak Street Block Club.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mrs. BILLINGS. I would also like to submit Mrs. Jean Gardner's name into the list because she came a little late and we didn't want to submit it before she got here to speak also.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mrs. Billings. Luella Russell, please.

Luella RUSSELL. I live at 152 Evergreen Street. I am a representative of the Providence Corporation. We the Providence Corporation lend our support to the PACE organization. I also would like to speak in the manner of a black resident, a black businesswoman in Providence, Rhode Island. I was born and raised in upper South Providence. I have seen a steady decay of upper and lower South Providence. I now live on the East Side in the Lippitt Hill area and I see my area over there being destroyed.

I know that a skating rink would be a lovely thing but since blacks and low income people cannot live in the Mount Pleasant area, I see no need of a skating

rink up there. I have also fought for the students at Central and watched Mayor Doorley chop the school budget and not give the facilities that are needed at Central High School. These are all low income people. These are all majority of blacks and poor whites, and see no reason why some of this revenue sharing money cannot be given to us.

As far as the LEAA funds, I think our police department now have their new uniforms, we see the new cars, we see the new dogs, we see the new sticks, and that is sufficient for the Providence Police Force.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mrs. Russell.

Maria Lopes, please.

Maria LOPES. My address is 55 East Drive in Providence and I am Chairman of the Tenants Affairs Board. I represent 4,000 tenants here in Providence.

I would like to say that as the Chairman of the Tenants Affairs Board, that we do back PACE, and we are also concerned about the living conditions here in Providence. We hope that the Mayor and the people who are working for the Mayor take into consideration low income housing.

I would like to say, working with the Commissioners and Mr. Joyce, Executive Director of Public Housing,

that we have tried to make these people very much aware of the conditions that we have been asking them to live in. We are not going to say that we are satisfied. We are very dissatisfied. We hope that you have plans to better the conditions for the people, not to help us go down. Please help us go up.

This is what the tenants here in Providence would like, a better way of living. We hope some of this money goes in that area. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Lopes.

Reverend Harley? Mrs. Dumont, please.

Louise DUMONT. 144 Superior Street, Providence.

I represent the Superior-Wendell Block Club. I feel very strongly that a portion of revenue sharing funds should be used to help alleviate the burden of ever-increasing property taxes on our elderly citizens. Surely the retired person who has saved and struggled all his life, only to find that he can no longer afford to keep his home after having contributed so much to this City during his lifetime, he is entitled to some relief in his remaining years.

Since Providence is one of the few cities or towns in the State that does not provide some aid to these deserving citizens, it seems to me we are shirking our

duty. I propose and support that every homeowner after 65 years of age be exempt of \$1,000 valuation on their property and this exemption be made up with revenue sharing funds. Only in this way will we help our elderly to remain in their own homes and at the same time prevent these homes from falling into the hands of absentee landlords.

I think I would also like to support the youth center in the West End. As a mother of four children, two who are school age, I feel that there is nothing in the West End that we have for after school, Saturdays, for these children. I know PACE has fought for this very strongly and I feel that I think one of the old sayings, and I think I want to close at this -- Idle hands make the Devil's advocate. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mrs. Dumont.

Florence Anderson.

Florence ANDERSON. 142 Wood Street, from the Wood Street Block Club. I am here for the youth center. We would like to have the youth center in the West End. The kids are playing on the street corners, cops are picking them up. If we can't get the revenue sharing money, what are we going to do with them? Send them cigarettes in jail when they get too old?

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mrs. Anderson.

Mrs. Rutledge? Miss Correau? Mrs. Gardner.

Jean GARDNER, 170 Hudson Street, Providence.

Hopefully, I represent many families in the West End, and West Broadway and South Providence areas, on a subject, that after hearing some subjects, doesn't seem that important to you people maybe, but to us it does. And that is the speed signs around the schools. Messer Street, which is one of our areas that has no speed signs at all, Althea Street School, which is an adjunct to Union Avenue has no speed signs, South Providence area, Ocean Street -- all that area have none.

If you go into your residential areas -- Smithfield, North Smithfield -- you will find these speed signs of twenty miles per hour. Now, I should think in the City where traffic is much more dangerous than down in those areas, that we deserve them. We are only asking for a little bit of the revenue sharing money. It wouldn't cost that much and I really do think that we need them.

These streets are being used for speedways. They come off Union Avenue, Westminster Street, Thurbers Avenue, and have no consideration at all to what are important to us -- and that is our children, which at one time were your children, and that is what I would like to see

a little bit of that sharing come into.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Gardner.

Mrs. Campbell, please? Mrs. Richards, please.

Mrs. Walter RICHARDS -- Eva, 58 Wendell Street, Providence. I represent Wendell Street. We would like to ask for the Senior Citizens deduction of \$1,000 because Pawtucket has it and everybody else. There is an empty lot next to us; it's always filthy and dirty and my husband is 68 years old and every morning he is willing to go and pick up so we can live decent. We don't ask nothing for that, but I think the people of Providence, the Senior Citizens, should be exempt a thousand dollars. Thank you very much, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Richards.

Mary Bary.

Mary BARY, 96 Arnold Street. I am here to represent the Fox Point Senior Citizens. At our meeting last week, we voted to support the property tax exemption. We need this. A few months ago, our property taxes went up. Now we understand they are to go up again. We cannot afford the taxes now, let alone an increase. We need help. We need the tax exemption.

You men do not know what it is like to have to live on a fixed income. I do. I have a lot of friends

who are only able to make ends meet. This tax exemption is important enough for 28 cities in Rhode Island to pass it. Why must Providence always be the last to help out our Senior Citizens. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mrs. Bary.

Angelina Cotta.

Angelina COTTA, 23 Sheldon Street. I am a Senior Citizen and own a home in Fox Point section of Providence. I am here to tell you that I support the property tax exemption for Senior Citizens. It has gotten to a point that people who live in Fox Point cannot afford to fix up their property. If we do not get the tax break from you, our community will end up in a broken down neighborhood. The City of Providence will have to pay to have the homes torn down and hauled away. Please vote yes for this needed tax exemption. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Cotta. Ed Brown.

Susan GIROUX. Since Mr. Brown couldn't be here at this moment, I am going to be speaking for the Rhode Island Workers Association. My address is 405 Potters Avenue, Providence.

The Rhode Island Workers Association is here tonight

to proclaim our support to the demands of PACE and the Senior Citizens of Rhode Island Action Group that our elected officials spend revenue sharing money in a manner that benefits all Providence residents and not just the privileged ice skaters of Mount Pleasant.

Because our members do not skate for a living, we are concerned about what might seem silly compared to two new skating rinks that the Mayor proposes. We need low interest home improvements loans for the people in the Elmwood-West End areas; we need more building inspectors to help to prevent fires in vacant buildings; we need a tax exemption of \$1,000 for property owning senior citizens; we need life insurance and benefits for our Community Police; we need twenty-mile an hour signs to protect our children; and we need dog officers and equipment to control the doggie problem in this City.

We feel that these requests are very important because we live in homes in this City; our children go to schools in this City; we work in this City, and if financially possible, we may retire in this City. We are paying the taxes that you are going to spend -- we want to be heard. This is a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and not a City government of one-man rule, and by a Mayor that the people never see.

The Rhode Island Workers Association is the organization of unemployed, underemployed, employed and retired workers in Rhode Island who have joined together to protect our rights -- the right to collect unemployment with respect, and the right to work in a decent job at a decent pay without endangering our health, safety, and well-being.

We now are using our Constitutional rights, and we demand that our City Government hear us. Let the City Government spend this money, not for the benefit of one man or a few people, but for the needs of the people of Providence. Please listen to our needs.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Miss Giroux. Hugo Munos, please? Beverly Thomas, please?

Father MIMNAUGH. She is coming a little later, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Freda Salisbury, please? Molly Cohen, please.

Molly COHEN. 57 Daboll Street. I am a widow and I would like to reduce a little bit of taxes. I would like the taxes to go a little lower.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mrs. Chase, please.

Alice CHASE, 105 Sackett Street. I am the Chairman of the Sackett-Detroit Block Club. I represent

about 440 families in the Elmwood section and we feel that the revenue sharing is a people's money and should be spent where there is a greater need. The following items are important to us because they take priority over any skating rink.

We need more dog officers and vans to pick up stray dogs. We need more building inspectors to take care of vacant buildings to prevent fires. We need a twenty-mile an hour speed limit sign across our schools to protect our children so that they can be safe going home. We need a property tax exemption for elderly homeowners, and we need low interest home improvement loans for limited income homeowners in the West End and the Elmwood section. We also need life insurance and other benefits for community police officers. We also need a youth center for the West End.

We are appealing to you to look at our needs. We feel that the revenue sharing is part of our tax money and we should get the best benefits and we feel these are the priorities. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mrs. Chase. Mr. Christiansen, please.

Lester E. CHRISTIANSEN. I live at 87 Congress Avenue, Providence. I am a member of PACE and I represent

the Congress-Mitchell and Laura Block Club. On the eighteenth of January at the Council Meeting when Mayor Doorley's revenue sharing budget was submitted, thirteen Councilmen co-sponsored the petition to give \$1,000 tax exemption on real estate assessment to elderly homeowners in the City. Many of these people live on limited incomes and I understand many have had to borrow money to pay their taxes so that they wouldn't lose their homes. Twenty-eight other towns and cities in Rhode Island already provide elderly tax exemptions, but Providence has not got to it yet.

Of course, we understand they will lose approximately \$400,000 that that program would cost. We hope they will take some of this money from revenue sharing to pay for this.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. William Silva.

William SILVA, 109 Mitchell Street. I got disabled in 1944, been disabled for 28 years, and my wife has feet with arthritis. She had to buy feet support of \$40 and had to buy a pair of arthritis shoes for \$90, and sick or no sick, she had high blood pressure, she been working right along.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Silva. Mrs. Johnson, please? John Fawcett please.

John FAWCETT, 42 Homestead Avenue, Providence. I am a member of the PACE Senate, representing Saint Joseph's Hospital. I hope the Mayor and the Council will give careful consideration to the PACE proposals for allocating a portion of the City's revenue sharing money. These proposals are aimed at solving some part of community problems that affect the daily lives of many people. The proposals were thoughtfully developed and have the support of property owners and tenants who have in many cases worked long and hard for the welfare of the City and their neighborhoods.

These proposals reflect a citizen interest in the affairs of the City, that is a healthy sign for Providence. City agencies and perhaps the Council itself have hoped for this interest, this grass roots response, in the past and it was not there.

In a real sense, the opportunities for cooperation between the Council, the Mayor and the people, who are expressing their needs through these proposals, are more important and promising for the City's long range welfare than the revenue sharing dollars themselves. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Reverend Lefebvre.

Reverend Larry LEFEBRE, 205 Princeton Avenue,

Providence. I am the Director of Neighborhood Ministries at Calvary Baptist Church and also a member of the Executive Board of PACE. I am speaking tonight for the members of the Board of Christian Social Concern of Calvary Baptist Church, who are also members of PACE, and as an organization would like to make a statement and raise some questions.

The members of this organization, the Board of Social Concern of Calvary Baptist, are apprehensive at this time when many Federally funded community action programs and self-help community improvement programs are showing signs of fast approaching death. While the revenue sharing concept was paraded as a wonderful way of meeting the health, recreation, and social service needs of a local area because of local control and allocation of funds, we feel there are several shortcomings in the revenue sharing concept.

First is the fact that because other kinds of improvements are also covered under revenue sharing, public transportation, law enforcement, fire protection, et cetera, there is a danger that the desperate social needs of disadvantaged areas will be entirely forgotten.

Secondly, with the control of allocations in the hands of local governments, the actual placement of

revenue sharing funds will depend largely upon the ethics of a given local government. We ask that the people of South Providence, Elmwood, Washington Park, and the West End be given high priority as the neighborhoods of the City are reviewed. We ask that the needs of our community as outlined by PACE be given utmost consideration -- more dog officers, building inspectors, speed limit signs, youth centers, as well as low interest improvement loans, personal benefits for community police officers, and property tax exemption for elderly homeowners are absolutely necessary for the health and stability of our neighborhoods.

As you decide and distribute the revenue sharing funds, we urge that you do not forget those areas which need so much in the way of social services.

The questions that we would ask are what process is there going to be for deciding how the revenue sharing money will be spent? How is this information gathered tonight to be utilized? We would like to know, especially from our Councilmen, Mr. Darrigan and Mr. McKiernan, what your next step is? When is your next meeting? We would like to know if there is a decision not to fund the proposals that PACE has requested this evening, we'd like to know why not -- some reasons.

We hope that you will show your responsibility to the people of Providence; the people of PACE would like to have answers to these questions that I have just gone over before the next Council Meeting.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Reverend. The next name is Max Silverman, please? Vincent Monti.

Vincent MONTI, 555 Mount Pleasant Avenue. Chairman Lynch and Members of the City Council, I am representing a group of concerned taxpayers from the Mount Pleasant section and primarily from the northern end of Mount Pleasant Avenue.

To be a little different, I am asking you to take something away from us. We have a horrendous traffic problem because of what we already have in our neighborhood, and to list a few of them, we have Conley Stadium behind Mount Pleasant High School; we have Rhode Island College with an enrollment of approximately 15,000 graduate and undergraduate students; we have the Henry Barnard School located on the Rhode Island College campus; we have the Children's Center on the Rhode Island College campus; we have St. Vincent dePaul's opposite Mount Pleasant High School; we have St. Augustine's Church, and these all contribute to

our traffic problem. We are concerned about the fire station that is proposed to be built on Mount Pleasant Avenue, or on the State property, the Rhode Island College State property. It really doesn't make sense to us to build a fire station that we pay taxes for almost in another city.

This proposal is for a fire station closer to North Providence, and supposedly, according to the papers, it may even serve part of North Providence. We have many people concerned about this because of our traffic problem, noise pollution, and are very concerned if we need a petition in the future, we can't get it.

The argument that we hear because they are after this property because of the lack of land in Providence, and we feel that these administrative buildings could certainly go towards some of this redevelopment property where they knocked many houses down.

Another consideration for not putting it there, can we say at this time that Rhode Island College will never expand to a point where they wouldn't need this land? As we know, Brown University keeps taking houses away, so we don't know how large Rhode Island College will get.

We pay high taxes in our neighborhood, and that is our choice. We hope that we would have something to say on how our neighborhood changes.

Within the past four years that I lived on Mount Pleasant Avenue, I had many visitors onto my property -- cars drive on my lawn into the poles in the front -- it's only because we have much too much traffic.

We hope that you will consider not building the fire station on Mount Pleasant Avenue because we feel we have adequate protection. The money, supposedly \$1,500,000 that was going to be spent on this fire station, is much more needed in areas as is indicated by what we heard tonight from other people. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Monti. Ernest Corvese.

Ernest CORVESE, 71 Sycamore Street, Providence.

The CHAIRMAN. Before you start, I would like to just caution you, we are considering the revenue sharing proposal only. We are not considering the proposal that you introduced, although that might have bearing on the subject.

Mr. CORVESE. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Darrigan, Mr. McKiernan, Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Beatini, ladies and gentlemen. This is a good time for me to

make a statement that I have wanted to make for a long time. I want everyone here present to know that I am against the methods that are used by PACE in trying to acquire things that in a forceful manner that they are going about trying to get.

I see here by their figures that they got listed down here \$400,000 for tax exemption for the elderly. Now, that at \$53 a thousand would mean that 7,547 people would be receiving it. Let me say this to you, I started this investigation of this tax exemption back in 1971. I started from one end of the State and ended in the other. I went to every city and town in the State of Rhode Island, getting their requirements, residency requirements, requirements based upon their income, and all the people that are receiving it. When I done this, Mr. Chairman, I had no idea in mind that this tax exemption of a thousand dollars for the elderly was going to be based upon this revenue sharing business, because there are cities and towns here that have been providing this exemption since 1960. That is the reason why I did not give it one thought that this thousand dollar exemption would be based upon this revenue sharing bill that I believe, that given without any strings attached to our Mayor, that he is not a man that is going to

take this upon himself. There are 26 Councilmen in this City, and I have faith in each and every one of them. I think they are capable of taking care of the elderly. It is in the hands right here -- this is the docket that was presented to this Committee and it was presented to the Finance Committee, and it is in their hands. I believe that they were elected to do the best there is in them for the wards that they represent.

If they don't do the proper thing for you people, there is always a time to put them out of office. But I know, I have faith in them, that they will carry out their duty to the elderly. That is why I say that I don't like the way PACE is going about it. They have no right to tell the Mayor how to use this money. We have got Councilmen in this City. It is their duty, the duty of the Councilmen, to decide what to do with that money, and I believe it will be done.

That is all I have to say. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Corvese. The next name on the list is that of Bruno Hoffman.

Bruno HOFFMAN, 137 Woodbine Street, Providence. I am a member of the Senior Citizens Action Group and the Senior Citizens Jewish Community Center. I came

out here in support of the petition of \$1,000 exemption for the Senior Citizen. I am a little bit confused about the last speaker, but I figure revenue sharing is the time to do it. It is the time to do it now, one way or the other. But it's high time that people on a fixed income and pensions who are hit very very hard, and for the last two or three years, with the increase of the Providence City tax, sixteen percent in additional other six percent, and we are afraid now what the valuation will bring next term when the next taxes come up.

I think it is very important that this revenue sharing was considered by the Federal Government mainly to relieve the high burden of the City property taxes. Nothing else is proposed than just this thousand dollar now, and I worked with some people and try to help them -- we have a very hard time to get along and the City taxes is one of their biggest burdens, much more than the Federal or State income tax.

The City tax is one what makes a big part in their budget. I very strongly support the proposal now to give the thousand dollar exemption, without any strings attached, to people who have one to three family houses.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Hoffman.

Christine DeCecco? Carolyn Pellegrino? Mrs. Walter Richards.

Mrs. RICHARDS. I already spoke, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Alice Green, 49 Bogman Street, Providence. I represent the Senior Citizens Action Group of upper South Providence, who are urging tonight to grant a \$1,000 tax exemption for Senior Citizen homeowners. It's very difficult to keep up with such a high tax when you live on a limited income. If the other cities and towns can give an exemption, why can't Providence?

We realize that the Seniors are not retired and getting off their jobs because they can, but due to health problems and due to illness, that is why they are coming off their jobs. It's not because they want to. There's a lot of Seniors who would love to hold their jobs, but their strength has failed them because of age, and they are not able to hold a job.

So, we are asking you to grant this request. Help the Seniors, because they are trying, but it's so hard to do something when you don't have the money to do with, and we realize when you get a certain age, you cannot do the things that you used to.

For that cause, the Seniors cannot keep up their homes with high taxes and we ask tonight that you will think over the matter and help the Seniors to live longer, because they couldn't enjoy their homes while they were working because all day they were on the job. They coming home nights, they are so tired and ready to fall asleep. Now's the time they can enjoy that home just a little bit -- they don't have too much longer to live -- why not help them to live as long as they can. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mrs. Green. Francis Carpenter, please.

My name is Nancy CARPENTER, Chairman of the Valley View Tenant Association. I live at 875 Admiral Street in Providence. I represent a group of 256 families and we are supporting PACE in its efforts to try to get these funds spent to better the people in the communities.

I can really sympathize with these people and the problems they are having because I live in an area where we are starting to go downhill because of misspending of funds and juggling of funds and all the things going on, apparently, with the money PACE is requesting.

I would really appreciate if you could accede to PACE's demands because I think you can do an awful lot

better for the communities. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. The Reverend J. Wesley Prince.

J. Wesley PRINCE, 19 Sumter Street. I am a member of the Executive Board of PACE. Why are we here? We are here because you have been willing to let the citizens express to you our needs and we do appreciate your courtesy.

This has been a long evening and you have been very attentive and I have seen many hearings and I do appreciate the courtesy of this evening.

We are also here because we want a city of which we can be proud and in that we join with you. I have been at a loss to answer people who have visited me from other states and have said to me, "Why do you have so many dogs running around your streets? Why do you have so many houses that are unkept, that are obviously in need of repair?" I haven't had an answer. I want to have good answers. I want to be proud of this city. You have heard the people speaking of their needs, and I urge you gentlemen to consider them deeply. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Reverend. Chuck Taylor, please. Jean Gardner please?

Mrs. GARDNER. I have already spoken.

The CHAIRMAN. I would ask the members of the Committee if they wish to offer any comments? Hearing none, I would like to make a couple myself, since all of the people who expressed a wish to speak have been heard from.

I have not been made aware that any ice rink is to be constructed in the Mount Pleasant area, and I represent a portion of the Mount Pleasant area, so I would think I would know something about it.

It is my understanding that the recreation money, as well as all of these funds, are to be spent to benefit all of the citizens of the City of Providence, no matter where they live.

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the hearing of the Finance Committee concerning the proposed revenue sharing ordinance. On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank all of the people who took the time and effort to come down here tonight to meet the Committee.

I wish you would just wait to allow me to speak a couple of minutes, now that we have been courteous enough to listen to you.

Again, I wish to thank the people who took the time and effort to come down here tonight and make the Committee aware of their views. The Committee will take

under consideration the comments expressed by the various people. I wish to comment now that while we appreciate the comments of all of the people who spoke, we realize that the views stated, they represent only one or a few segments of the entire population of the City of Providence.

I would, therefore, like to express through the news media, if I could, request that the great silent majority of the people make their wishes known to their respective Councilmen. I think this is the proper way to do things.

I think Mr. Corvese mentioned this briefly, ever since I was a youngster, it seems I recall if a person had a political problem, they would approach their Councilman for the solution to that problem, and I think this is as logical as approaching a priest if you have a spiritual problem. I don't think conditions have changed through the years, and I would earnestly request that these people contact their Councilmen.

Again, on behalf of the members, thank you very much for the courtesy and your attention here this evening. Goodnight.

(HEARING CLOSED)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Elaine T. Grenier, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete transcript of my notes taken at the time of the above-entitled hearing on February 8, 1973 at Providence City Hall.



ELAINE T. GRENIER, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND
REPORTER