



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 162

EFFECTIVE March 30, 2025

WHEREAS, The City of Providence is committed to democratic governance, the rule of law, and the principles of representative government that ensure accountability to the people; and

WHEREAS, The concept of the "Network State," as promoted by individuals such as Curtis Yarvin, Peter Thiel, Marc Andreessen, and Elon Musk, advocates for the dismantling of democratic institutions in favor of corporate-controlled, CEO-led territories that replace sovereign governance with centralized, unaccountable rule; and

WHEREAS, This ideology actively seeks to exploit the challenges facing democratic governments, including the erosion of public trust and economic instability, to justify the privatization of governance and the consolidation of power into the hands of unelected corporate leaders; and

WHEREAS, Proponents of the "Network State" have sought to undermine democratic institutions, with documented efforts to exert undue influence over political processes, including the attempted hijacking of local governments such as San Francisco's political institutions, and the leveraging of financial power to dominate public discourse; and

WHEREAS, This concept aligns with and reinforces broader anti-democratic movements, including the authoritarian restructuring of government institutions, the suppression of diverse and inclusive governance, and the rejection of democratic accountability; and

WHEREAS, The influence of Big Tech billionaires and their investments in political movements that promote CEO-run governance, as evidenced by initiatives such as the "Reboot" conference and financial contributions to extremist political factions, pose a direct threat to the democratic principles enshrined in our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence stands firmly against the privatization of governance and rejects any efforts to replace democratic institutions with corporate autocracy.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council strongly condemns the concept of the "Network State" as an anti-democratic and dangerous ideology that seeks to erode public governance in favor of private rule; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Providence reaffirms its commitment to democratic principles, transparency, and accountability in governance, and calls on all levels of government to resist efforts by corporate interests to subvert democratic institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council urges federal and state lawmakers to take legislative and regulatory action to prevent the undue influence of corporate actors in democratic governance, including campaign finance reform, transparency in political contributions, and oversight of private efforts to establish alternative governance structures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, and relevant federal agencies to express the City of Providence's opposition to anti-democratic corporate governance models.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 20 2025
READ AND PASSED



RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT


CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk