

CITY OF PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND



CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 92 City Council Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 3, 1994, 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.S.T.)

PRESIDING

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JAMES A. PETROSINELLI

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 17 1994

APPROVED:

Michael R. Clement CLERK

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, DeLuca, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fagnoli, Councilmen Fenton, Glavin, Igliozi, Lombardi, Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Rollins, Councilwomen Williams and Young—15.

Absent: None.

Whereas, The only thing now that is needed to release these funds are the signatures of the Governor, the Senate Majority Leader and the House Speaker, and

Whereas, The City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request Governor Sundlun, Senate Majority Leader Paul S. Kelly and House Speaker John B. Harwood to release \$2.3 Million Dollars in funds to the Cities and Towns,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That if such monies are released, the City of Providence will realize some \$145 Thousand plus Dollars for the City's Task Force, and

Be It Further Resolved, That Copies of this Resolution be forwarded to all Cities and Towns within the State, asking that they join with the City of Providence in presenting a unified voice in seeking the release of these Funds.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN GALVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI.

The motion for Passage, is Sustained.

Resolution Informing the Honorable Attorney General that the Members of the Providence City Council do hereby oppose the transfer of Prosecutorial Responsibility for DUI/DWI Refusals to the Individual Cities and Towns.

Whereas, The City Council of the City of Providence is aware that, effective December 1, 1993, the Office of the Attorney General will cease

prosecuting DWI/DUI refusal cases due to lack of funding and staff and will pass this responsibility onto the 39 local Cities and Towns, and

Whereas, The City Council of the City of Providence, like the State of Rhode Island and no doubt, each of our sister communities, has neither the money nor the personnel to perform this traditional State level function, and

Whereas, The unilateral decision to require disposition of these cases by local authorities will place an undue burden on the Cities and Towns and adversely impact the financial condition of our Community,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the City Council of the City of Providence is opposed to local prosecution of DWI/DUI refusal cases and urges the Office of the Attorney General to reconsider its decisions and to continue prosecution on the State Level, and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island and the Attorney General seeking immediate consideration and to Providence's 38 sister communities seeking support.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN GALVIN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS.

COUNCILMAN FENTON desires to be recorded as "Not Voting".

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI desires to be recorded as voting "No".

The motion for Passage, is Sustained.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
COUNCILMAN DAVID G. DILLON, Chairman
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Transmits the following with Recommendation the Same be Severally Approved:

Communication from His Honor, the Mayor, dated December 16, 1993, Informing the Honorable City Council that Pursuant to Sections 302 (b) and 1103, of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, He is this Day Reappointing Nicholas Lucarelli of 22 Marshall Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909, as a Member of the Human Relations Commission, for a Term to Expire in January, 1997 and Respectfully Submits the Same for Approval.

Communication from His Honor, the Mayor, dated December 16, 1993, Informing the Honorable City Council that Pursuant to Sections 302 (b) and 1103, of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, He is this Day Appointing Rickie Wilson of 233 Roger Williams Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02907, as a Member of the Human Relations Commission, for a Term to Expire in January, 1995 and Respectfully Submits the Same for Approval. Mr. Wilson will fill the unexpired term of Mr. Gary St. Peter, who has Resigned.

Communication from His Honor, the Mayor, dated January 10, 1993, Informing the Honorable City Council that pursuant to Sections 302 (b) and 203 (a) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, he is this day reappointing Mr. Mark J. Lomazzo of 20 Fairbanks Street, Providence, Rhode Island, as a Member of the Board of Canvassers for a term to expire on the first

Monday in March, 1997 and respectfully submits the same for approval.

Communication from His Honor, the Mayor dated January 24, 1994, informing the Honorable City Council, that pursuant to Section 302 (b) and Section 701 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, of the Reappointment of Roosevelt Benton of 226 Gallatin Street, Providence, as a member of the School Board for a term to expire on the first Monday in January, 1997.

Communication from His Honor, the Mayor dated January 24, 1994, informing the Honorable City Council, that pursuant to Section 302 (b) and Section 701 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, of the Reappointment of Lisa Benevides-Powers of 92 Salina Street, Providence, as a member of the School Board for a term to expire on the first Monday in January, 1997.

Communication from His Honor, the Mayor dated January 24, 1994, informing the Honorable City Council, that pursuant to Section 302 (b) and Section 701 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, of the Appointment of Bianca K. Gray of 299 Doyle Avenue, Providence, as a member of the School Board for a term to expire on the first Monday in January, 1997.

Communication from His Honor, the Mayor dated January 24, 1994, informing the Honorable City Council, that pursuant to Section 302 (b) and Section 701 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, of the Appointment of Juan Lopez, Jr., of 37 Clym Street, Providence, as a member of the School Board for the unexpired term of Roberto Gonzalez, who has resigned to accept appointment as an Associate Justice of the Housing Court, for a term to expire on the first Monday in January, 1996.

Communications Severally Received and Appointments Collectively Approved, on motion of COUNCILMAN GALVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI.

COUNCILMAN FENTON, COUNCILMAN ROLLINS, COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN and COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG desire to be recorded as voting "No" relative to "Communication from His Honor, the Mayor dated January 24, 1994, informing the Honorable City Council, that pursuant to Section 302 (b) and Section 701 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, of the Appointment of Bianca K. Gray of 299 Doyle Avenue, Providence, as a member of the School Board for a term to expire on the first Monday in January, 1997."

The motion for Approval, is Sustained.

Resolutions Reporting Receipts of Certain Gifts of Monies by the Board of Park Commissioners for the Preservation and Care of Specified Burial Lots in North Burial Ground.

Resolved, That the following gifts of the following sums of money, to the Board of Park Commissioners, in trust, the income thereof to be applied, under the provisions of Chapter 367 of the Public Laws, January Session 1861 for the preservation and care of the following specified burial lots in said ground be and the same are hereby respectively accepted.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, DeLuca, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fargnoli, Councilmen Fenton, Glavin, Iglizzo, Lombardi, Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Rollins, Councilwomen Williams and Young—15.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

The motion for Passage, is Sustained.

**COUNCILMAN DAVID G. DILLON, Chairman
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

and

**COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPHINE DiRUZZO, Chairwoman
COMMITTEE ON URBAN REDEVELOPMENT,
RENEWAL AND PLANNING**

Jointly Transmit the following with Recommendation the same be Approved:

Resolution Authorizing the Duly Elected Mayor of the City of Providence to submit an Application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Section 108 Guaranteed Loan in the amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) to Finance the Expansion of the Providence Performing Arts Center.

Whereas, the City of Providence is eligible to receive Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds for Fiscal Year 1994 under Section 106 (a) or (h) of Title I of the Housing Community Development Act of 1974; and

Whereas, The City Council of the City of Providence, County of Providence, State of Rhode Island, on, July 7, 1993, by Resolution 468, authorized the City of Providence, through its official representative, the Mayor, to file a STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING with the Boston Area Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the purpose of obtaining Community Development Block Grant; and

Whereas, Section 108 of the Act authorizes submission of an application for loan guarantee assistance for those communities entitled to receive a Community Development Block Grant; and

Whereas, Section 108 provides a source of front-

end financing for large-scale projects which cannot be financed from annual grants; and

Whereas, the Statement of Community Development Objectives and projected use of Loan Guarantee Funds provides the necessary assurances and/or Certification of Compliance with applicable Federal Regulations and requirements; and

Now, Therefore, the City Council of the City of Providence, County of Providence, State of Rhode Island, hereby authorizes the City of Providence through its representative, the duly elected Mayor, to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a loan not to exceed TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000.00) under the Section 108 TITLE I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, to fund an economic development project, whereby the loan funds would be used to finance the cost associated with the expansion of the Providence Performing Arts Center.

COUNCILMAN ROLLINS moves that the Resolution be amended by deleting where it refers to "1991" and insert in lieu thereof the year "1994".

This motion is seconded by **COUNCILMAN CLARKIN**. **COUNCILMAN GLAVIN** moves the Resolution be Read and Passed as amended.

This motion being seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, DeLuca, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fargnoli, Councilmen Fenton, Glavin, Iglizzo, Lombardi, Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Rollins, Councilwomen Williams and Young—15.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

The motion for Passage, as Amended, is Sustained.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG requests to Speak on a Point of Personal Privilege and States:

February 3, 1994

TO: Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. and residents of the City of Providence.

FROM: Donald A. Lopes

January 24, 1994, Mayor Cianci sent me a letter stating how well he thought I demonstrated my effectiveness on the Providence School Board and he further expressed his gratitude for my three (3) years of service. He then stated that he felt the PROBE Commission made it necessary to "balance" reappointments to the School Board with new appointments. I realized that the Mayor was not going to reappoint me to the School Board. Instead, he has chosen to "balance" the School Board by appointing a fifth (5) white female to the Board in spite of the 73% minority population in the Providence public schools. Mayor Cianci has chosen to change the balance of equality. A change that renders a complete imbalance of equality.

I believe in public education. I have 2 young children attending Providence Public Schools. Many of my dear friends and neighbors are not able to send their children to private schools. But, I am in a position to send my children to the finest private schools. However, I remain committed and faithful to the public education system despite the fact that conflict continues and despite the fact that the school system has already failed thousands of minority students over the years. And now, in 1994, the **growth in segregation** is increasing for African Americans across the United States and Providence, Rhode Island is not exempt from the spread of this disease. I will not give up my dedication to obtaining excellence in education for all students. I will not abandon my African American brothers and sisters. I will not abandon my white counterparts; for only together will we be able to reach a true blance of equality.

My many friends, business associates and civic organization members that I have worked with for so many years know and understand that I am for fairness and equality. However, during a meeting with the Mayor, I was told by Frank Corrente, the Mayor's Director of Administration,

that I was too militant. He claimed that militant behavior went out in the 60's. Mayor Cianci openly agreed with Mr. Corrente. As an independent businessman I brought autonomous, not militant, thinking to the School Committee for the benefit of all children. I was not to be a rubber stamp for any mayor or superintendent. I take exception to Mr. Corrente's comments as I only sought equal educational and employment opportunity for our students.

I am here to set the record straight and say to Mayor Cianci — you were **wrong** in dismissing me from serving on the Providence School Board. You were wrong to even suggest as you did in your letter of January 24, that you would appoint me to another board. A suggestion of that nature is tainted. Do you believe that I would be less militant elsewhere? Do you believe that tossing me a bone would be an appeasement of your wrongdoing?

The PROBE recommendations called for **radical reformation** of our public school system. In its recommendations was talk about **equity** or **parity** for minority students and their parents, minority teachers and administrators. All were to be empowered to make decisions together along with the Superintendent and a School Board reflective of the cultural and ethnic diversity in the City.

Removing me from the School Board does not send the right message to people of color — especially African Americans.

Higher standards of excellence for our students, more minority guidance counselors, more black and Hispanic teachers, increased parent involvement, teacher retraining, teaching methodology reform, school facilities improvement in high poverty schools, **measurable gains** in achievement test scores for minority children — These are some of the major changes needed NOW not in 2, 3, or 4 years from now.

The Providence Teachers Union, the Mayor, the

Superintendent and the Providence School Board must work together to carry out the Probe Report Recommendations and I am convinced that a **minority controlled school board** is in the best interest of all students.

It is time to share the power and to let equality prevail.

Education in the highest order is vital to rid my people of **economic slavery**. Poverty, hopelessness, despair, violent crime, Black on Black crime, housing discrimination, job discrimination — all of the above despicable situations are directly connected to the lack of proper education that should be afforded to all children — African American, Hispanic, Asian or white. We in the African American community can no longer stand by Mayor Cianci and allow politically motivated decisions to take away our right to be in the policy-making positions within our City that will determine whether or not our families can truly live out the American Dream.

A turning point in my life occurred in Washington, D.C. when Rev. Martin Luther King made his famous speech. Under the threat of losing my position on Madison Avenue in New York City, I left. My life changed forever.

I am a man of honesty and integrity and I have served on numerous boards and I have always spoken up about the plight of Black people in Corporate America and Institutions of Higher Learning. I own a multi-million dollar corporation and I am a role model for my people. I live and work in my community. I have not reached a pinnacle of success just to abandon those who helped me achieve my goals. I am here to help the children and grand-children of those that have loved and supported me.

Let me say to all those who support my position, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your confidence in me and your support. For those of you who do not accept my position — understand me when I say I hold no grudge but God is on

come to realize the impact on the Citizens of Providence and the State with this phony sentencing.

Ten years and paroled in two or three years is no deterrent to crime. Violent criminals should

and must be kept off our street. Let us, on the City Council, work to have truth in sentencing. Let us work to change the laws that pamper violent criminals."

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

FROM THE PORT OF PROVIDENCE:

Monthly Statistical Report for December, 1993.

FROM THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT:

Annual Report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1992 and ending June 30, 1993.

FROM THE CITY CONTROLLER:

Monthly Financial Report for December, 1993.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION:

Annual Report for 1993.

Severally Received.

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Petitions for Compensation for Injuries and Damages, viz;

David Carbone

JoAnn DaSilva

Harold Tavares

Sophat Youn, Ol Eang, Chealong Theolum, Chen Chhath

Kathleen Danti

Robert R. Lamoureux

Leeann Cady

David Vierra

Pamela Forbes and Barbara Parker

William Vierra

Christohper Dellavantura

Paul Gatta

Amy Gotilieb Dalton

Ruth N. Whitford

John Charette

Kenneth R. Fournier and Cindy Robillard

Referred to the Committee on Claims and Pending Suits, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLOZZI.

Ramon Gredy

Stacy M. Pederzani

The motion to Refer, is Sustained.

Nicole A. Bento

PRESENTATION OF CITATIONS

"In Congratulations"

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSINELLI and the MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL:

finalist in the 53rd Westinghouse Science Talent Search at Classical High School.

Citations Extending Congratulations.

Salvatore Savastano, Upon the grand opening of Sal's Bakery.

Resolved, That the Members of the City Council hereby express their sincere congratulations to the following:

Ann McLaughlin, Upon the celebration of her 80th Birthday on February 27, 1994.

Arlene Feldman, Upon her reappointment to the Board of Licenses of the City of Providence for three (3) consecutive years.

Severally Read and Collectively Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI.

John Magyar, Upon being selected as a Semi-

The motion for Passage, is Sustained.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

“In Memoriam”

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSINELLI
and the MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL:**

Resolutions Extending Sympathy.

Resolved, That the Members of the City Council hereby express their sincere sympathy to the families of the following:

Frederick T. Sullivan

Rose B. Arruda

Beatrice R. McStay

Carmela DiBattista

Robert M. Morris

L-Marie M. Blunt

Irving M. Rollins, III

Lillian G. Rollins

Amy W. “Mae” Jarrett

Anthony T. Barbato

Eddie “Wakin Maroun Wakim” Moron

Vincent J. Rafanelli

Edward R. Ryan

Joseph D. Pascale

Alfred S. Rossi, Sr.

Isidore D. D’Orsi

Thomas R. Silvestri

Lorenzo DiBoni

Frank W. Pallotta, Sr.

David R. Cazzarro

H. Wayne Rand, Jr.

Rose Carmella Fagundes

Vincent “Shamp” Lato

Saverio B. “Sam” Maceroni

Sheila M. Giardino

**Severally Read and Collectively Passed,
by a Unanimous Rising Vote, on motion of
COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by
COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI.**

The motion for Passage, is Sustained.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI, it is voted to adjourn at 9:00 o'clock P.M. (E.S.T.) in the Memory of Sergeant Steven M. Shaw to meet again on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1994 at 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.S.T.).

Michael R. Clement

City Clerk