

AN ORDINANCE
CHAPTER

City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

CHAPTER 1979-19

No. 306

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1978-18, APPROVED JULY 28, 1978, BY APPROPRIATING A SUM NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$66,000.00) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS AND PARKS.

~~XXXXXXXX~~
~~Approved~~ Effective: April 16, 1979

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

SECTION: 1. Chapter 1978-18 of the Ordinances of the City of Providence, as approved July 28, 1978, entitled;
"An Ordinance Making Appropriation of One Hundred Fourteen Million, Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars and Ninety-Two Cents (\$114,998,850.92) for the Support of the City Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1979", is hereby amended by appropriating the sum of Sixty Six Thousand Dollars (\$66,000.00) to the Department of Public Lands and Parks; Fifty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$56,000.00) to Account 07-02-199 and Ten Thousand ~~Two Hundred Dollars~~ ^{Dollars} (\$10,⁹700.00) to Account 07-02-299. Rm

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 15 1979
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

Rose M. Mendonca CLERK

IN CITY
COUNCIL
APR 5 1979

FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED
Ralph Tignol
PRESIDENT
Rose M. Mendonca
CLERK

Effective without Mayor's signature
April 16, 1979

Rose M. Mendonca

No.

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

City of Providence

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 15 1979

FIRST READING

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

FINANCE

Rose M. Mendonca CLERK

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:
Approved

THE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

Recommends

Be Continued

Rose M. Mendonca
Clerk
Feb. 20, 1979

THE COMMITTEE ON

FINANCE

Approves Passage of
The Within Ordinance

Rose M. Mendonca
Clerk Chairman
March 6, 1979

Councilwoman Brasil (By Request)



Department of Public Parks

Office of the Superintendent
Dalrymple Boathouse, Roger Williams Park
Providence, Rhode Island 02905 401-421-3300

February 13, 1979

Councilwoman Carolyn Brassil
Chairwoman, Finance Committee
City Council
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Councilwoman Brassil:

At the request of the Acting Finance Director Bernardo, I am writing you to request the appropriation of an additional \$66,200. for the Public Lands and Parks account of my department's budget with \$56,000. to go to account 07-02-199 and \$10,200. to go to account 07-02-299.

The \$56,000. for the #99 account and \$5,000. for the #299 account is to replace \$19,084 already expended from that account to meet bills from the Providence CETA Administration for the excess cost of CETA workers in July-September 1978, to pay \$21,199. already overdue for the months of October 1978-January 1979 as well as FICA reimbursement for CETA for the period of Jan., 1978 thru January 1979 and to provide \$21,000. for the minimal estimated excess CETA costs including FICA for the rest of the fiscal year.

This problem arose because the CETA law provided that the Federal government would pay only up to \$192.30/wk in wages (\$10,000. per year) At first in 1975 the city paid almost all its workers less than this amount so almost all costs were borne by the Federal government. However with the very generous wage increases granted by the city in the three-year contract with Local # 1033, this ceased to be the case. Today the lowest paid laborer with no overtime gets \$204.00 per week. As a result, substantial and escalating costs occur to reimburse the Federal authorities for wages in excess of \$192.30/wk and related fringe benefits.

Orally I had repeatedly warned of this problem, but had been unable to obtain a directive on what would be done about it. Therefore in my cover letter of April 11, 1978, (a copy of which is enclosed as per your request) for the 1978-1979 Public Lands and Parks budget, I formally called this problem to the attention of the appropriate authorities saying:

" I respectfully call your attention to the fact CETA only pays \$192.30/ wk of a person's wages while the lowest wage commonly paid with no overtime will be \$204.00/wk for laborers. With 67 CETA employees in this department it will be necessary to include either a new central account in the city budget or a new object code in our budget to cover this cost. At present I am holding, at your orders, over \$10,000.00 in unpaid CETA bills for the current year; for 1978-79 I estimate \$25,000.00 will be needed assuming CETA positions fall by one third."

Unfortunately neither action was taken. The Acting Finance Director informs me that it has been decided to create a new central account to pay these CETA bills for 1979-80, but in the interim \$61,000.00 is needed in the Department of Public Parks 1978-79 budget for this purpose.



In view of my early formal warning of this problem as well as my informal warnings even earlier, no blame fairly attaches to the Department of Public Parks or myself for this problem. Indeed by reducing the number of CETA positions from 67 to 56 over the past nine months without loss of production I have considerably reduced this cost. My original estimate of \$25,000. assumed a massive city-wide CETA layoff which was then generally anticipated but which has not yet occurred; hence far less money is needed than I had expected but otherwise I believe my warning reads quite prescient nearly a year later.

The remaining \$5200 for the #299 account is needed to pay a bill in that amount to Rosciti Construction Company for non-bid emergency work clearing the conduit connecting Crystal Lake to Willow Lake in Roger Williams Park. This bill was retroactively approved on February 5, 1979 by the Board of Contract and Supply on the recommendation of the Director of Public Property whose department had selected the vendor after my department's request to have the conduit cleared by the city sewerage division had been unsuccessful. If it is of any consolation I am not aware of this conduit ever having been plugged before in its 43 year history and with the new grate Deputy Superintendent Britto had installed, I doubt that it ever will need to be cleared again. To pay the vendor as ordered by the Board of Contract and Supply I request this appropriation in concurrence with the Director of Public Property and the Acting Finance Director.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Diamond

James W. Diamond,
Superintendent of Parks

JWD/dnt

ENC:

Department of Public Parks

Office of the Superintendent
City of Providence, Roger Williams Park
Providence, Rhode Island 02905 401-421-2100

COPY

April 7, 1978

Mr. James R. Bernardo
Acting Director
Department of Finance
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Bernardo:

I am pleased to submit the budget for the 1978-79 for the Public Lands and Parks account and look forward to discussing it with you.

In accordance with your instruction, the personnel changes requested are shown below, rather than on the yellow forms:

- 1) At no cost to the city, I request that all persons working and being paid above their classification as per the union contract be formally reclassified. Therefore please replace four laborer positions with one horticulturist, one equipment operator and two foreman.
- 2) At a cost to the city of \$2704 please delete thirteen laborer positions and substitute thirteen Landscape Gardeners positions at \$5.20 per hour which includes the union increase. This reform was recommended to me after last years strike by Acting City Solicitor Ronald Blantz as urgently necessary to protect our horticultural staff from bumping and layoffs as well as being more equitable.
- 3) At a cost to the city of \$13,403 please add to the budget four positions to cover key development staff who will otherwise be dismissed under CETA and who can not be transferred to city slots as no such slots now exist. We can obtain CETA funds for six months for these positions and can obtain BOR funds for 1/2 of their salaries thereafter except for the neighborhood coordinator who will be CETA funded for nine months.

Landscape Architect II	Gr. 25, Step 1	\$2405.
Landscape Architect I	Gr. 24, Step 1	\$3341.
Graphics Designer	Gr. 24, Step 1	\$3341.
Neighborhood Coordinator	Gr. 21, Step 1	\$3120.

The alternative is to slow down massively the city's program for restoring our parks and to increase its costs by over \$100,000.

- 4) I also request that my own salary be set at whatever level is selected for the other department directors of the city.

In non-personnel areas, I have revised the #100 and #200 account budgets to reflect actual expenditure needs so that next year we will not have to severe transfer problems we have had this year. The #300 account has been calculated to reflect the exact cost including the effect of our new buildings. Their cost is also included in the utilities account (131) the misc. services account (199) for the new alarm systems, etc. The #500 account contains a detailed explanation both of Westminster Center related and other costs.

I respectfully call your attention to the fact CETA only pays \$192.30/week of a persons wages while the lowest wage commonly paid with no overtime will be \$204/week for laborers. With 67 CETA employees in this department, it will be necessary to include either a new central account in the city budget or a new object code in our budget to cover this cost. At present I am holding, at your orders, over \$10,000. in unpaid CETA bills for the current year; for 1978-79 I estimate \$25,000. will be needed assuming CETA positions fall by one third. Finally I call your particular attention to our need for overtime funds because (1) our heaviest visitor load is on weekends and holidays, (2) certain facilities (eg the greenhouse and the zoo) must be tended every day even if closed to the public, (3) the certainty that there will be storm emergencies and (4) the special needs due to our completing \$4,000,000. of new facilities in the first few months of the new fiscal year.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Diamond

James W. Diamond,
Superintendent of Parks

JWB/dnt