

CITY OF PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND



CITY COUNCIL
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 34 City Council Regular Meeting, Tuesday, April 18, 2000, 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.)

PRESIDING

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHN J. LOMBARDI

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Lombardi,
Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Butler, Clarkin,
DeLuca, Councilwoman DiRuzzo, Council-
men Hassett, Igliozi, Jackson, Mancini,
Councilwomen Nolan, Romano and Young—
14.

Absent: Councilwoman Williams—1.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUN 1 2000

APPROVED:

Michael R. Clement CLERK

INVOCATION

The Invocation is given by COUNCILMAN
PETER S. MANCINI.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COUNCILMAN PATRICK K. BUTLER
leads the members of the City Council and
the Assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance
to the Flag of the United States of America.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI:

Resolution amending Resolution No. 732,
approved December 13, 1999 relative to the
establishment of an Ethics and Public
Integrity Division of the City of Providence.

Whereas, The City should put in place a
commission to do a study on the possibility of
incorporating an Ethics and Public Integrity
Division within the City of Providence. It is
hereby requested to delete and add additional
members to the commission, and

Whereas, This Ethics and Public Integrity
Division may review the cities operations
through inspectors and other investigative
measures whereby the city should refer for the
prosecution of City employees, and contractors
allegedly engaged in corrupt or fraudulent
activities, or unethical conduct, and there
should be a training and education unit that
prevents conflicts of interest from arising by
teaching City employees and officials the code
of ethics and the penalties for violating it, and

Whereas, This proposed commission would
provide proposal(s) that will specifically state

the element(s) of an Ethics and Public Integrity Division of the City of Providence which would include but not limit to:

1. A training and education program
2. Legal advice program
3. Enforcement Program
4. A Financial Disclosure Division

Whereas, This information shall be provided within 90 days.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the President of the City Council is hereby requested to appoint a commission of fifteen (15) members to study the feasibility of the Establishment of an Ethics and Public Integrity Division for the City of Providence, those fifteen members will include:

Three (3) Councilmanic Appointments

Two (2) Mayoral Appointments

One (1) Public Safety Commissioner or his/her designee

One (1) member of the Rhode Island Minority Police Association

One (1) Neighborhood Representative

One (1) President of the Chamber of Commerce or his/her designee

One (1) member selected by the Council of Churches

Two (2) members of a neighborhood organization

One (1) member of organized labor

One (1) member of a College, University President or Dean or his/her designee

One (1) Auditor General or his/her designee

COUNCILMAN ALLEN moves for passage of the Resolution, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

COUNCILMAN ALLEN moves to amend the Resolution to add the words

"it is hereby requested to delete and add additional members to the Commission."

COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG seconds this motion.

The motion to Amend is Sustained.

Read and Passed, as amended, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage, as amended, is Sustained.

Resolution amending Resolution No. 130, effective March 10, 2000 relative to the creation of a Blue Ribbon Commission. It is hereby requested to delete and add additional members to the Commission.

Whereas, The President of the Providence City Council is hereby requested to empanel and create a Blue Ribbon Commission to review and investigate any and all aspects of the Providence Police Department; and

Whereas, This newly created Blue Ribbon Commission would meet in order that some concrete discussion would be made relative to the ongoing Police problems that we have here within the City of Providence; and

Whereas, These problems have overflowed into our neighborhoods; and

Whereas, With the creation of such a Blue Ribbon Commission it would address numerous problems that have been reported to the Providence Police; and

Whereas, The Blue Ribbon Commission is hereby requested to host and conduct many meetings with neighborhood groups and any other organizations or groups which could be helpful to the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the purpose and creation of said Commission is to study and advise the City Council on the practicability of implementing a plan of how to address this very serious problem we have here in the City of Providence.

Be it further Resolved, That any and all reports from the Blue Ribbon Commission shall be submitted to the City Council by filing said reports with the City Clerk within a timely fashion.

Be it further Resolved, That the said Commission shall consist of Thirteen (13) members to be appointed by the President of the City Council.

This Commission shall have the following membership:

Commissioner of Public Safety or his or her designee;

President of the RI Council of Churches or his or her designee;

President of the N.A.A.C.P. or his or her designee;

Executive Director of the National Committee for Community Justice or his or her designee;

President of the Roger Williams Law School or his or her designee;

Member of Providence Community Organization or his or her designee;

President of the Ministerial Alliance or his or her designee;

Retired Providence Police Officer;

Mayor or his designee;

Council President or his designee;

Member of the Providence Juvenile Hearing Board;

Member of a Latino Organization;

Providence Business Person.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI,
COUNCILMAN ALLEN, COUNCILMAN
APONTE, COUNCILMAN BUTLER,**

COUNCILMAN JACKSON, COUNCILMAN MANCINI, COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN and COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG:

Resolution Requesting the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Providence Police Chief to immediately consider members of the Providence Police Reserve Unit for entry in the upcoming Police Academy and that Reserve Unit Members that have passed requirements for the last Police School shall be considered for the next Police Academy.

Resolved, That the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Providence Police Chief are requested to immediately consider members of the Providence Police Reserve Unit for entry in the upcoming Police Academy and that Reserve Unit Members that have passed requirements for the last Police School shall be considered for the next Police Academy.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI and COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG:

Resolution Requesting the Rhode Island General Assembly to promulgate rules and regulations prohibiting local pharmacies from not supplying enough narcotic-strength drugs for patients in severe pain, that live predominantly in minority neighborhoods.

Whereas, A survey of 347 New York City pharmacies found that half do not carry enough medicines for people in severe pain and the shortage is most acute in minority neighborhoods such as Harlem, and

Whereas, Dr. Sean Morrison of New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine began the study after finding that many of his black and Hispanic patients were unable to fill narcotic-strength drugs for pain, and

Whereas, Morrison's team found that in neighborhoods where at least 80 percent of the population was white, 72 percent of the pharmacies, whether part of drug store chains or mom-and-pop operations, carried the drugs, and

Whereas, In areas where whites made up less than 40 percent of the population, only 25 percent of the stores had the medicines; and

Whereas, The discrepancy was seen even after the data were adjusted for the rates of burglary, robbery and drug-related arrests in the neighborhoods. Only 19 percent of the pharmacists with an adequate supply of painkillers cited fear of robbery as the reason, and

Whereas, Most of the pharmacists stated that they could order and obtain the requested medication for a patient within 72 hours, Morrison and his colleagues write in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. "For patients in severe pain, 72 hours is an unacceptably long period of time," and

Whereas, The finding "suggests that members of racial and ethnic minority groups are at substantial risk for the undertreatment of pain", they concluded, and

Whereas, In cases of severe pain, narcotic-strength drugs are often the only thing that can give comfort to a patient, when the pain is real, the drugs are seldom addicting, and

Whereas, Pharmacists told Morrison's team they did not stock the drugs because there was little demand for the drugs that are tightly regulated by federal and state agencies, and

Whereas, The researchers said the problem "calls for a program to educate pharmacists about the safe and appropriate use of opiod analgesics, as well as an evaluation of regulations that may act as disincentives for pharmacists to stock controlled substances", and

Whereas, Morrison told Reuters the group undertook the study shortly after Mount Sinai, located just south of Harlem, began a special program for helping people with serious illness cope with pain, and

Whereas, "I noticed that a substantial number of my patients, particularly African American and Latino patients, were unable to fill prescriptions for standard pain medications" when they left the hospital, and

Whereas, In an editorial in the Journal, Drs. Harold Freeman of North General Hospital and Richard Payne of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, said the Morrison study is just the latest piece in "a growing body of compelling and disturbing evidence (that) points to inferior medical care for black Americans, even if they are on an equal economic footing with whites", and

Whereas, Blacks tend to have higher cancer rates and higher death rates from cancer.

Studies have also shown: that they are less likely to get surgery for lung, colon and breast cancer, hip replacement surgery, or to be signed up for an organ transplant if they have kidney failure, and

Whereas, Morrison's findings "lead us to believe that in addition to these burdens, blacks are also inadequately treated for pain from cancer," Freeman and Payne said, and

Whereas, "We believe the common thread in these findings is a subtle form of racial bias on the part of medical care providers," they said. "The level and extent of this problem are unknown, but it is real and potentially harmful, even though predominantly unintentional", and

Whereas, Physicians, as well as pharmacists, police officers and others, must learn to see people not through the lens of race but instead as the individual persons they are", the doctors said.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Rhode Island General Assembly is requested to promulgate rules and regulations prohibiting local pharmacies from not supplying enough narcotic-strength drugs for patients in severe pain that live in predominantly minority neighborhoods.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCILMAN ALLEN (By Request):

Resolution Requesting the Traffic Engineer to prohibit motor vehicle traffic along Access Road leading to the baseball field off Niantic Avenue, on Sunday, April 16, 2000 between the hours of 11:00 o'clock A.M. to 1:00 o'clock P.M. to accommodate the Elmwood Little League.

Resolved, That the Traffic Engineer is requested to prohibit motor vehicle traffic along Access Road leading to the baseball field off Niantic Avenue, on Sunday, April 16, 2000 between the hours of 11:00 o'clock A.M. to 1:00 o'clock P.M. to accommodate the Elmwood Little League.

COUNCILMAN ALLEN:

Resolution endorsing and urging passage by the General Assembly of Senate Bill (00-S 2708) and House Bill (2000-H 7636) relating to highways — alterations.

Resolved, That the Members of the Providence City Council hereby endorse and urge passage by the General Assembly of Senate Bill (00-S 2708) and House Bill (2000-H 7636) relating to highways — alterations.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

Resolution Requesting the Commissioner of Public Safety in conjunction with the appropriate authorities (Chief of Police, City Solicitor, etc.) to promulgate rules and regulations relating to the carrying of firearms of "off duty" police officers and alcohol consumption.

Whereas, There exists volumes of information on the effects of excessive alcohol consumption and its impairment of judgment, reasoning and motor skills, and

Whereas, The imminent danger of police officers carrying firearms who are under the influence of alcohol is potentially dangerous, should never be tolerated, and should clearly be discouraged, and

Whereas, The City of Providence indemnifies police conduct and is ultimately culpable and responsible for compensation and damages, and

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Providence City Council requests the Commissioner of Public Safety and the appropriate authorities (Chief of Police, City Solicitor, etc.) promulgate rules and regulations that are quantitatively and qualitatively measurable for detection, investigation and enforcement.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCILMAN CLARKIN (By Request):

Resolution Requesting the Traffic Engineer to prohibit motor vehicle traffic along Benefit Street between College Street and Waterman Street on Saturday, April 15, 2000 between the hours of 9:00 o'clock a.m. to 5:00 o'clock p.m. to accommodate Rhode Island School of Design's Annual Spring Student Art Sale.

Resolved, That the Traffic Engineer is requested to prohibit motor vehicle traffic along Benefit Street between College Street and Waterman Street on Saturday, April 15, 2000 between the hours of 9:00 o'clock a.m. to 5:00 o'clock p.m. to accommodate Rhode Island School of Design's Annual Spring Student Art Sale.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCILMAN HASSETT (By Request):

Resolution Requesting the Providence Redevelopment Agency to acquire property located at 15 Esten Street, (Plat 67, Lot 62), as part of the Smith Street Revitalization Project.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI Refers the Resolution to the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning.

The motion to Refer is Sustained.

COUNCILMAN MANCINI (By Request):

Resolution Requesting the Chief Electrical Inspector to cause the upgrade of street lighting along Wardlaw Court to 27,500 lumen.

Resolved, That the Chief Electrical Inspector is requested to cause the upgrade of street lighting along Wardlaw Court to 27,500 lumen.

COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS (By Request):

Resolution Requesting the Traffic Engineer to prohibit motor vehicle traffic along Meeting Street between Brook Street and Thayer Street on Tuesday, April 18, 2000 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock a.m. to 8:00 o'clock p.m., to accommodate the Ben and Jerry's Free Ice Cream Cone Day.

Resolved, That the Traffic Engineer is requested to prohibit motor vehicle traffic along Meeting Street between Brook Street and Thayer Street on Tuesday, April 18, 2000 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock a.m. to 8:00 o'clock p.m., to accommodate the Ben and Jerry's Free Ice Cream Cone Day.

COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG (By Request):

Resolution Requesting the Traffic Engineer to prohibit motor vehicle traffic along A Street from Lester Street to Rice Street on Saturday, July 15, 2000 for a gathering in memory of Kiel Dailey.

Resolved, That the Traffic Engineer is requested to prohibit motor vehicle traffic along A Street from Lester Street to Rice Street on Saturday, July 15, 2000 for a gathering in memory of Kiel Dailey.

COUNCILMAN ALLEN moves to dispense with the reading of the foregoing matters.

Collectively Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG:

Resolution Requesting the Traffic Engineer to establish Dudley Street from Friendship Street to West Clifford Street a one-way in an easterly direction.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI Refers the Resolution to the Committee on Public Works.

The motion to Refer is Sustained.

Resolution extending Sincere Congratulations to Fannie King and Cheryl Spears on the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of Miss Fannie's Soul Food Kitchen at 242 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island on Saturday, April 15, 2000.

Resolved, That the Members of the Providence City Council hereby extend their Sincere Congratulations to Fannie King and Cheryl Spears on the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of Miss Fannie's Soul Food Kitchen at 242 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island on Saturday, April 15, 2000.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Report from Michael R. Clement, City Clerk, dated April 12, 2000, Informing the Honorable Members of the City Council that in accordance with the provisions of Section 601(b) of the

Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, entitled: "Division of Archives and History", he is this day appointing John T. Myers as City Archivist.

Report from Michael R. Clement, City Clerk, of all moneys received, transmitted and credited by the City Collector for fiscal quarter of January 1, 2000 to and including March 31, 2000.

Annual Report from Raymond L. Brown, Director, Department of Recreation for Providence Recreation Department Activities for the 1999 year.

Report from Raymond Dettore, Jr., Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Licenses, of all moneys received for licenses, etc., issued during the quarter ending March 31, 2000.

COUNCILMAN ALLEN moves to dispense with the reading of the foregoing matters.

The Communications are severally Received.

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

COUNCILMAN BUTLER requests the privilege of the floor to speak on a point of personal expression and states:

"One week ago this evening I have the pleasure of appearing before the School Board to support children in my neighborhood, Robert F. Kennedy School, who were there protesting some changes in the School Department. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was brought to the attention of the Board that there were some expenses that were paid out to the Regency Plaza and also some moving expenses to cover the cost of moving across country, which total

\$8,450.00 Two separate bills, but \$8,450.00 I had said . . . I was quoted in the paper saying that I would introduce a resolution requesting that the Deputy Superintendent reimburse the city for this money because it was not something that was negotiated in her contract, and due to the change of the meeting this evening, I wasn't able to get that in before the council. I will have it for the next Council meeting, but it was just something that I thought that \$8,450.00 for moving cross country, which was not in someone's contract, would be better spent on books and supplies for children. I thank you very much."

COMMUNICATION

Communication from Raymond J. Gregoire, Senior Manager, Real Estate Transactions for Fleet Bank, dated April 4, 2000, requesting to change the address of the downtown Providence Tower Building from One BankBoston Plaza to One Financial Plaza.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI Refers the Communication to the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning.

The motion to Refer is Sustained.

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Petitions for Compensation for Injuries and Damages, viz:

Jeff Coelho

Kendall Hudson (Christopher E. Fay, Esquire)

Karen A. Mulcahey

Felix Hernandez (Charles J. Vucci, Esquire)

Philip V. DiCarlo (Stephen A. Lechter, Esquire)

Shirley Thomas (Charles F. Reilly, Esquire)

Tumekia Fenner, Casey Fenner & Derrick Mitchell (Robert V. Russo, Esquire)

Bernita Wright & Corine Miller (John S. Coughlin, Esquire)

Raymond Carlino (Albert E. Medici, Jr., Esquire)

Juan Santiago (David A. Cooper, Esquire)

Candida Diaz & Andres Javier (Robert D. Watt, Jr., Esquire)

Nationwide Insurance Co., a/s/o Brian R. Sullivan

Metropolitan P & C a/s/o Cathleen LaFontaine

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI Severally Refers the Petitions to the Committee on Claims and Pending Suits.

The motion to Refer is Sustained.

Petition of Michael Marcoccio, President, Providence Fraternal Order of Police requesting permission to abandon a portion of Aleppo Street.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI Refers the Petition to the Committee on Public Works.

The motion to Refer is Sustained.

PRESENTATION OF CITATIONS

"In Congratulations"

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI and the MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL:

Citation Extending Congratulations.

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

Dorothy Stravato, in recognition of the celebration of her 70th Birthday on March 25, 2000.

Read and Passed, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

"In Memorium"

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI and the MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL:

Resolutions Extending Sympathy.

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

Vincent Storti

Mary H. "Mae" Melleney

Clara Ricci

James Bettencourt

**Severally Read and Collectively Passed,
by a Unanimous Rising Vote, on motion of
COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by
COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.**

Alexander R. Qualls-Sylvia

Walter B. Pitera

The motion for Passage is Sustained.

Beatrice DelSignore

Helen M. LaPrade

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of COUNCILMAN ALLEN, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN ROMANO, it is voted to adjourn at 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) in memory of Vincent Storti, former Fourth Ward Councilman, and to meet again on WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2000 at 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.).

Richard R. Clement

City Clerk

