

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 556

Approved November 8, 2004

WHEREAS, For nearly ten years, the Westin Hotel has provided quality jobs to the hard-working women and men of Rhode Island and the City of Providence; and

WHEREAS, Since 1995, UNITE HERE! Local 217 has represented the workers at that hotel as the collective bargaining agent; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Convention Center Authority has announced its desire to sell the Westin Hotel and has issued a Request for Proposals to prospective buyers; and

WHEREAS, We, the elected Council members of the City of Providence, do not desire to see any workers lose their long-standing jobs should the hotel be sold; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing unemployment and underemployment rate in several communities in Rhode Island and Providence, and as a result, Rhode Island citizens are forced to be dependent on a social service system because there are not adequate living-wage jobs to be self-sufficient and take care of their families' basic needs; and

WHEREAS, Quality employment at the Westin Hotel means equal opportunity employment, livable wages, provisions for job security, healthful work environments, respect in the workplace and retirement with dignity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That this body of elected Council Members from the City of Providence and Providence Plantations hereby urges the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority to require all prospective hotel bidders to do the following as a condition of sale:

- 1) Hire all current bargaining unit employees of Starwood at the Westin Hotel;
- 2) Apply to them the existing terms and conditions of employment; and
- 3) Recognize the years of service and seniority of all bargaining unit employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body calls upon the good members of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority to issue these requirements in writing to all bidders as soon as possible, thereby insuring a level playing field among all bidders and preventing any loss of employment for current hotel employees or creation of low-wage, no-benefit jobs that will further destabilize the Providence economy.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
NOV 4 2004  
READ AND PASSED, As Amended

*Josephine DiFuzzo*  
ACTING PRES.

*Richard M. Almont*  
CITY CLERK

*[Signature]*  
MAYOR

11/8/04

Councilman Aponte, By Request, Council President Lombardi, Councilman Allen, Butler, De Luca,  
Councilwoman Di Noia, Councilman Hassett, Iglizzi, Jackson, Luna, Mancini, Councilwoman Romano,  
Councilman Segal, Councilwoman Williams & Young