

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 42

Approved January 23, 2018

WHEREAS, According to the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, as of 2014, there are more than 4,000 homeless Rhode Islanders, including nearly 1,000 children; and

WHEREAS, From 2007 to 2012, the number Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness grew by 24%; and

WHEREAS, While the levels of homelessness in our state have decreased since 2012's near record high, homelessness continues to be a serious issue in our community; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), 39% of people experiencing homelessness nationwide are female, 21% are children, and another 10% are between the ages of 18 and 24; and

WHEREAS, While African-Americans are just 13% of the U.S. population, more than 40% of homeless people in the U.S. are African-American; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2017 AHAR, the number of unsheltered homeless in America increased 9.4% from 2016 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, Homeless women are particularly vulnerable to violence and victimization, with one study conducted by the National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women finding that 92% of homeless mothers had experienced severe physical and/or sexual violence and that 13% of homeless women reported having been raped in the last 12 months; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the National Coalition for the Homeless released a report on hate crimes committed against homeless people which found that, over a 17-year period, at least 1,657 people were victims of violence perpetrated for the sole reason that they were homeless, including 428 who lost their lives as a result of those attacks; and

WHEREAS, As public servants and the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has a moral obligation to help those who are homeless and to enact policies that will reduce the level of homelessness in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby establishes the Special Committee to Study Homelessness to study, review, and make recommendations for the laws, policies, and procedures to help those who are homeless and to reduce the number of people in Providence who experience homelessness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That,

- 1) The committee shall be composed of the following members:
 - Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Chair
 - Councilman Nicholas Narducci, Jr., Vice-Chair
 - Councilwoman Carmen Castillo
 - Councilwoman Nirva LaFortune
 - Councilman Samuel Zurier
- 2) The committee shall issue a report with findings and recommendations to the full City Council by November 1st, 2018.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 18 2018

READ AND PASSED



PRES.



CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor

Date:  1/23/18