

**City of Providence**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 7

EFFECTIVE January 19, 2025

WHEREAS, On December 21, 2024, a supermajority of tenants at Atlantic Mills made history by voting to establish the Atlantic Mills Commercial Tenants Union, the first commercial tenants' union in Rhode Island and a significant milestone in tenant advocacy within the state; and

WHEREAS, The tenants of Atlantic Mills, an iconic Providence landmark built in 1852 and central to the economic, cultural, and artistic life of the Olneyville neighborhood, have taken a bold and proactive step to safeguard their livelihoods and businesses amid a potential sale of the property; and

WHEREAS, The union has articulated clear demands to the current owner, The Howard & Eleanor Brynes Trust, including securing a 99-year lease, implementing immediate rent stabilization, and enacting an eviction moratorium starting December 21, 2024, until a fair collective bargaining agreement is reached; and

WHEREAS, This historic union reflects the deep cultural and community significance of Atlantic Mills, a space that has long been a vibrant hub for artists, small business owners, community organizations, and faith-based groups, and must be preserved as an inclusive and affordable space for all; and

WHEREAS, The formation of the Atlantic Mills Commercial Tenants Union underscores the importance of tenant unions in amplifying the voices of renters and addressing issues such as rising rents, displacement, and gentrification, which threaten to erode the social and economic fabric of our city; and

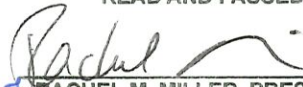

WHEREAS, Atlantic Mills embodies Providence's rich industrial heritage and ongoing creative spirit, hosting diverse tenants that contribute to the city's identity as the "Creative Capital"; and

WHEREAS, By uniting to form a tenants' union, the tenants of Atlantic Mills have demonstrated remarkable leadership and solidarity, setting an inspiring precedent for tenant advocacy across Providence and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council congratulates the tenants of Atlantic Mills on this groundbreaking achievement, stands in solidarity with the Atlantic Mills Commercial Tenants Union, and affirms its commitment to supporting their efforts to ensure this historic and vital neighborhood center continues to thrive under community-focused stewardship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage a copy of this resolution be sent to the Atlantic Mills Commercial Tenants Union, the Howard & Eleanor Brynes Trust, the Olneyville Neighborhood Association, and the Director of the City of Providence Planning Department.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JAN 09 2025  
READ AND PASSED

  
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature

  
Tina L. Mastroianni  
City Clerk