

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 195

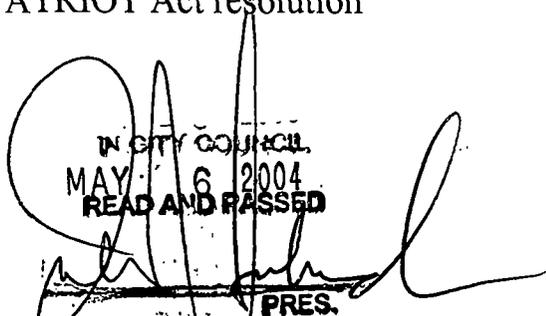
Approved May 17, 2004

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council passed a resolution on December 14, 2003 calling on our United States Representatives and Senators to monitor the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act and related Executive Orders and to actively work for the repeal of the Act or those sections of the Act including Executive Orders that violate fundamental rights and liberties as stated in the United States Constitution and Amendments; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island is currently considering a similar resolution to address the various conflicts contained within certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act; and

WHEREAS, The States of Alaska, Hawaii, Maine and Vermont, the District of Columbia, and 289 cities and towns throughout the United States, including New York and Chicago, have passed resolutions opposing the said provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence supports the proposed state resolution and urges the Honorable Members of the General Assembly to join the municipalities of Middletown, New Shoreham, North Providence, Providence and South Kingstown in reaffirming the rights and civil liberties of all Rhode Islanders by voting for passage of the USA PATRIOT Act resolution

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 16 2004
READ AND PASSED

PRES.
Michael B. Clement
CLERK 


5/17/04
MAYOR

1000

READ AND PASSED
FIRST READING

MCCLY COUNCIL

Councilmen done and signed

Co-Sponsored by Councilman Luna and Councilman Segal

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Claire Bestwick

From: Yvonne Graf

Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2004 11:25 AM

To: Claire Bestwick

Subject: resolution

I left out the title:

A Resolution Urging Passage of the USA PATRIOT Act Resolution by the Rhode Island General Assembly

4/29/2004

JACK REED
Rhode Island

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES

BANKING

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

July 1, 2004

Mr. Michael Clement
City Clerk
City of Providence
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Clement:

Thank you for forwarding me a copy of the Providence City Council's Resolution regarding the PATRIOT Act, more formally known as the Provide Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act. I appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

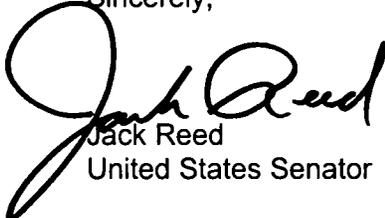
As you may know, the PATRIOT Act was passed in the wake of the September 11th attacks. The law bolstered the ability of federal authorities to conduct criminal and intelligence investigations, to bar and expel foreign terrorists from the United States, to separate terrorists from their sources of financial support, to punish acts of terrorism, and to assist victims of the events of September 11. While I had reservations about this legislation, the need to address the obvious threat, combined with the fact that the Act sunsets in five years, prompted me to vote for the PATRIOT Act.

The provision of greater investigative authority to our nation's law enforcement officials is a matter that raises many issues, and certainly there is a great onus upon the Department of Justice to utilize the awesome authority of the PATRIOT Act in a circumspect and cautious manner. Likewise, Congress has a responsibility to conduct vigorous oversight on the use of the PATRIOT Act's new powers, and, to date, the Senate Judiciary Committee has held twelve hearings on the Act since its passage.

I recognize that there is a great deal of concern that the Department of Justice is abusing the PATRIOT Act's authority and may even seek to expand these powers. I believe that until there is demonstrated reason for greater authority there is no basis for such an expansion. Indeed, you can be assured that I will draw upon your thoughtful comments as the Senate debates the Department of Justice's budget and its use of the PATRIOT Act's considerable power.

As always, it is a pleasure hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Jack Reed
United States Senator

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