

CHAPTER 2024-41

No. 346 AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ENTITLED: "THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ZONING ORDINANCE," APPROVED NOVEMBER 24, 2014, AS AMENDED, TO ADD PROVISIONS TO SECTION 1911 CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Approved July 23, 2024

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

1911 CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. Purpose

Before a property owner commences construction, alteration, repair, removal, or demolition of any existing structure or its appurtenances within a Historic District Overlay District, the owner shall be granted a certificate of appropriateness from the Historic District Commission.

A certificate of appropriateness is required whether or not a building permit is required.

B. Initiation

A property owner, or person expressly authorized in writing by the property owner, shall file an application for a certificate of appropriateness for any development, including demolition, within a Historic District Overlay District.

A property owner may only file an application for a certificate of appropriateness for property under his/her control.

~~No demolition permit shall be issued and no demolition may occur until the Historic District Commission has issued a certificate of appropriateness.~~

C. Authority

1. The Historic District Commission, as applicable, will approve a certificate of appropriateness. The Historic District Commission may delegate to the staff authority to issue a certificate of appropriateness in certain circumstances without a public hearing in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines as adopted or by action of the Historic District Commission at a public hearing. The staff may not deny a certificate of appropriateness, but shall refer such action to the Historic District Commission for a hearing.

2. The Historic District Commission may, at the applicant's expense, hire experts to opine on the validity of evidence and testimony submitted as part of a demolition application. This may include, but is not limited to, an initial evaluation of the historic or architectural significance of the building, and, for structures found by the Historic District Commission to be historically or architecturally significant, an appraisal of the property and/or structural analysis of the building.

D. Applicability

All construction, alteration, repair, removal, or demolition of any existing structure or its appurtenances within a Historic District Overlay District requires a certificate of appropriateness.

E. Procedure

1. Within 45 days of receipt of a complete application, the Historic District Commission shall hold a public meeting on an application for a certificate of appropriateness. Notice is required in accordance with Section 1801.
2. An application for a certificate of appropriateness may be approved, approved with conditions, or denied. The Historic District Commission shall issue written findings for the reasons and basis of each decision regarding the certificate of appropriateness. When denying an application, the Historic District Commission shall include the basis for its finding of denial that the proposed activity would be incongruous with those aspects of the structure, appurtenances, or the district which the Commission has determined to be historically or architecturally significant. The Historic District Commission shall send a copy of the decision to the applicant and to the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards and the action taken by the Historic District Commission is binding on the Director. No application may be denied without a hearing.
3. If the Historic District Commission fails to act within 45 days of receipt of a complete application, the application is deemed approved, unless an extension of time has been agreed to by the applicant and the Historic District Commission.
4. If the Historic District Commission makes a finding of fact within the 45 day period that a particular application requires additional time for study and information, then the Historic District Commission has an additional 90 days from the date of the receipt of a complete application to act upon such application. An extension of time may be agreed to by the applicant and the Historic District Commission beyond this 90 day period.
5. A certificate of appropriateness may be issued without a public hearing for ordinary maintenance or repair of any structure within ~~ana~~ historic district provided that such maintenance or repair does not result in any change of design, type of material, or appearance of the structure or its appurtenances. The Historic District Commission may delegate to the staff the authority to approve and issue certificates of appropriateness in such circumstances.

F. Approval Standards

1. General

The Historic District Commission will evaluate all applications in accordance with the criteria established in its adopted "Standards and Guidelines." The Historic District Commission acts only on exterior features of a structure and its appurtenances. In reviewing an application for a certificate of appropriateness, the Historic District Commission has the power to call in experts to aid in its deliberations and may incorporate the conclusions of such experts in its decisions.

2. Special Criteria for Demolition

In order to preserve the historic fabric of the City, demolition of historic properties is discouraged. When reviewing an application for a certificate of appropriateness to demolish ~~ana~~ historic structure or appurtenance, the Historic District Commission shall consider the following criteria, in addition to the provisions of the adopted "Standards and Guidelines."

a. Structures Valuable to the City

In the case of an application for demolition of any structure, appurtenance, or a portion of a structure which the Historic District Commission deems so valuable to the City, the state, or the nation, that the loss thereof will be a great loss to the City, the state, or the nation, the Historic District Commission will endeavor to work out with the owner an economically feasible plan for the preservation of such structure on its present site. The Historic District Commission may issue a certificate of appropriateness to demolish only if it is satisfied that the retention of such structure constitutes a hazard to public safety which hazard cannot be

eliminated by economic means available to the owner, including sale of the structure to any purchaser willing to preserve such structure.

b. Structures Valuable for the Period

In the case of an application for demolition of any structure, appurtenance, or a portion of a structure deemed to be valuable for the period of architecture which it represents and its importance to the neighborhood within which it exists, the Historic District Commission may issue a certificate of appropriateness to demolish only if it finds that at least one of the following conditions exists:

- i. Retention of such structure constitutes a hazard to public safety which hazard cannot be eliminated by economic means available to the owner, including sale of the structure on its present site to any purchaser willing to preserve such structure.
- ii. Preservation of such structure is a deterrent to a major improvement program that will be of substantial benefit to the community.
- iii. Preservation of such structure would cause undue or unreasonable financial hardship to the owner, taking into account the financial resources available to the owner including sale of the structure to any purchaser willing to preserve such structure.
- iv. Preservation of such structure would not be in the interest of the majority of the community.

c. Additional Study Required

Because the findings required to be made in either (a) or (b) of this section necessarily requires further time for additional study and information on an application for demolition of any structure, appurtenance, or a portion of a structure, the Historic District Commission automatically has a period of up to ninety (90) days within which to act upon the application.

d. Lack of Findings

If the Historic District Commission does not or cannot make the findings required in either (a) or (b) of this section, then an application for a certificate of appropriateness to demolish a historic structure or appurtenance shall be denied.

G. Demolition Regulations

1. Acceptance of Demolition Applications

For a property that is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a property deemed to be a contributing structure within a National Register Historic District, an application shall not be considered accepted by the Historic District Commission until or unless a property owner can demonstrate (1) a continuing, bona fide and reasonable effort to sell the structure to any such purchaser willing to move and preserve such structure for a minimum period of at least three (3) months, or a longer period as promulgated by the Historic District Commission; (2) that these marketing efforts have been publicly advertised; and (3) the Providence Preservation Society, Preserve Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Foundation have been notified of these marketing efforts. Nothing herein shall limit the powers of the Historic District Commission with respect to other properties.

1.2. Alternatives to Demolition

The Historic District Commission will assist the owner in identifying and evaluating alternatives to demolition, including sale of the structure on its present site. When considering an application to demolish a structure of historic or architectural value, in addition to any other criteria, the Historic District Commission shall consider the following: a. Whether there

is a reasonable likelihood that some person or group other than the current owner is willing to purchase, move, and preserve such structure. b. Whether the owner has made continuing, bona fide and reasonable efforts to sell the structure to any such purchaser willing to move and preserve such structure.

2.3. Avoiding Demolition Through Owner Neglect

The City Council, or its designee, in consultation with the Historic District Commission, may identify structures of historical or architectural value whose deteriorated physical condition endangers the preservation of such structure or its appurtenances. The Council will publish standards for maintenance of properties within historic districts. Upon the petition of the Historic District Commission that a historic structure is so deteriorated that its preservation is endangered, the Council may establish a reasonable time of no less than 30 days within which the owner shall begin repairs. If the owner has not begun repairs within the allowed time, the Council or its designee shall hold a hearing at which the owner may appear and state his reasons for not commencing repairs. If the owner does not appear at the hearing or does not comply with the Council's orders, the Council or its designee may cause the required repairs to be made at the expense of the City and cause a lien to be placed against the property for repayment. The Historic District Commission will cooperate with and assist the City Council in exercising the provisions of this section.

3.4. Emergency Demolition

Should the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards determine that a structure is unsafe or hazardous and an imminent hazard to public safety for a reason such as being in danger of imminent collapse from damage caused by human action or an act of God, a committee consisting of the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards, Fire Marshal, Planning Director, a structural engineer to be hired under City auspices, and the Chair of the Historic District Commission, or their designees, shall convene immediately to evaluate whether the structure shall be demolished. The committee shall evaluate all pertinent information including, but not limited to, the structural condition of the structure, the historic value of the structure, and the danger to the public. The Director may order partial or full demolition based on the consensus of the committee. If the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards, in consultation with on-site life safety officials, determines that the structure is in danger of imminent collapse or is an immediate danger to public safety and there is no time to convene the aforementioned committee, he/she may order the structure demolished immediately. The Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards shall issue a report to the Historic District Commission stating the reasons for the order.

~~4. Demolition Delay~~

~~Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, in the case of an application for demolition of any structure, appurtenance, or a portion of a structure within a Historic District Overlay District, the Historic District Commission shall not issue a certificate of appropriateness any sooner than a period of six months from the date of application; provided, however, that said delay shall not apply in the case of emergency demolition.~~

5. Archival Documentation

Prior to demolition of any structure determined to be valuable to the city or for the period, as provided for in this section, the applicant shall assemble an archival package, including a history of the property, elevation drawings, floor plans, and exterior and interior photographs, and shall submit the package to the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission as part of the Rhode Island Historical Resources Archive as well as to the city archives department. The requirements and guidelines for this documentation may be further defined and regulated by the Historic District Commission.

H. Inspections

The Historic District Commission may inspect work in progress after a certificate of appropriateness has been issued to insure that work is proceeding in accordance with the approval received. If the Historic District Commission finds that the work in progress does not conform to the certificate of appropriateness, the Historic District Commission will advise the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards, who will enforce the requirements of the Certificate of Appropriateness in accordance with this Ordinance.

I. Appeals

An aggrieved party has the right to appeal a decision of the Historic District Commission to the Zoning Board of Review, and a further right of appeal from the Zoning Board of Review to the Superior Court, and from the Superior Court to the Supreme Court by writ of certiorari. The appeal to the Zoning Board shall be made within 20 days of the issuance of a written determination by the Historic District Commission on any plan or petition submitted to it or any revisions thereof.

G. Reapplication Restrictions

~~In the absence of change in such structure arising from a casualty event or occurrence, following the denial of an application, no new application for the same or similar work shall be filed within one year after such rejection.~~

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUL 11 2024
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED
Jina L. Mastromanni
CLERK

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUL 18 2024
FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED
Rachel M. Miller
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT
Jina L. Mastromanni
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.
Butt P. Smith
Mayor
Date: 7/23/24



CITY OF PROVIDENCE
MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY

May 23, 2024

Councilman Pedro Espinal
Chair, Committee on Ordinances
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Attn: Tina Mastroianni, City Clerk

Re: Referral 3579 – Delay of demolition in Historic Districts
Proponent: Councilman John Goncalves

Dear Chairman Espinal,

The proponent, Councilman John Goncalves, appeared before the City Plan Commission (CPC) on May 21, 2024 to present an amendment to the ordinance that no certificate of appropriateness, which allows for demolition in a historic district, shall be issued within six months of application. The amendment would also mandate archival documentation of demolished structures and prohibit reapplication within a year of rejection of a demolition permit.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The CPC discussed the amendment, took public comment, and heard from the proponent. The CPC considered the Department of Planning and Development's recommendation included below.

For the roughly 2,600 properties regulated within the city's local historic districts, there is already a rigorous public review by the Historic District Commission (HDC) of all demolition applications. The HDC's standards and guidelines apply different rules to structures that contribute to the significance of the historic district and those that don't. For utilitarian outbuildings or newer buildings or additions that do not contribute to the significance of the district, demolition approval may and should be issued swiftly. For contributing structures, the HDC requires extensive documentation of the condition of the building, alternatives to demolition (including sale of the building), and proposals for new construction. For highly significant buildings there will be no path to demolition. In other cases, the HDC weighs the evidence and considers the costs and benefits to the city of demolition and new construction. This review process takes at least two months, and often longer, to complete.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

JOSEPH A. DOORLEY JR. MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 444 WESTMINSTER ST, PROVIDENCE RI 02903
PHONE 401.680.8400 | WWW.PROVIDENCERI.GOV/PLANNING

Importantly, demolition may be approved for any building that poses a public safety hazard. Even then, the city requires confirmation from a structural engineer and other city officials before a demolition permit may be issued.

This process provides such strong protections against demolition in our historic districts that there have been no demolitions of contributing structures in residential historic districts in over 20 years. In fact, in that timeframe, there has only been one application to demolish a house, and that application was withdrawn before the HDC could act. In the Industrial and Commercial Buildings historic district, the HDC has approved a handful of demolitions, but only for structurally unsound buildings, where the cleanup of environmental contamination required removal of a building, or for a major improvement program which is of substantial benefit to the community.

Importantly, the proposed ordinance would not prevent or delay demolition of any structure outside of a historic district.

RECOMMENDATION

On a motion by Commissioner Sanchez, seconded by Commissioner Sherry, the CPC voted to take no action and to not make a recommendation to the City Council.

The CPC voted as follows:

AYE: W. Sherry, C. Lipschitz, N. Sanchez

Nay: D. Caldwell, M. Gazdacko

Sincerely,



Choyon Manjrekar
Administrative Officer

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Theyel, MD PhD
168 Laurel AVE
Providence, RI 01906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: CK Daniel <ckdanieldesign@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:31 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Six month demolition delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition.

I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Daniel

214 Cypress Street

Providence, RI

02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Susan Collyer <4susancatherine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PLEASE KEEP PROVIDENCE BEAUTIFUL!!!!

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Susan and I am writing to **express my strong support** for the **proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay** in historic districts!!! AT THE VERY LEAST SIX MONTHS!!!!

Good LORD people!!! Wake up!

This is the most beautiful creative city on the East Coast!!! DONT EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

I moved here from NYC and last year finally moved into the CITY from Barrington RI ~ I AM SOOO HAPPY I DID BECAUSE OF THE BEAUTIFUL OLD BUILDINGS!

Just today went to the admin building across from the state house- and omg it was awful- square chunks of concrete. So- you cannot even THINK about demolishing old buildings!

This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Cat Collyer

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Ted Laughlin <etlaughlinjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Edward Laughlin and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward Laughlin

56 Arnold Street

Providence, RI

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Ted Laughlin
etlaughlinjr@gmail.com
Mobile (401)649-0523

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Bill Applegate <billapplegateinri@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6 Month Demo Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Applegate
106 Benefit St. #2 Providence, RI 02903

Bill Applegate
401.578.9106

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Mary M Brabeck <mmb7@nyu.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:47 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Brabeck, Ph.D.
5 Arnold St. Providence RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Rosalyn Gerstein <roz.gerstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:50 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Cc: info
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support_Demo Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. I am fortunate to have the pleasure of walking College Hill as a resident. Beyond that, my concern stems from years of scholarly research as a former graduate fellow at the MIT Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

The ever-expanding imposition of Brown University and commercial development is changing the character of a community far faster than any earnest consideration can be made. As a first step, this ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and with awareness and incentives can promote energy conservation.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosalyn Gerstein, PhD
73 Manning Street
Providence, RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Alan Cobb <amcobb@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:51 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6-month delay plea

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

Our names are Alan and Kathe Cobb, and we are writing to express our strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

We urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan & Kathe Cobb

389 Benefit Street #4

Providence, RI 02903

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jeff Wickham <jwickham@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:58 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support 6 month demo delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition.

I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Wickham
35 Sheldon Street
Providence

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Nancy Nicholson <nlnpianist88@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:59 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] to the City Council: preserve historic Providence

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Nicholson
90 Twelfth St., Providence

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jason Protass <jason.protass@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 5:30 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Six-Month demolition delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. Providence is so lucky to have its historical and architectural treasures. You have a duty to protect them for us and future generations.

I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jason Protass

5 East Street, PVD, 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Janet Swift <janetswift40@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 5:35 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Six Month Demolition Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Janet Swift and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Swift
125 Governor St., Providence, RI 02906

Sent from my iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jonathan Howard <jwalker171717@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:09 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please bot for Demolition Delay in historic districts

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition.

I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Howard

178 9th St

Providence, R.I.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Lincoln, Evelyn <evelyn_lincoln@brown.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:14 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Historic Preservation bill

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Lincoln

233 Williams St, Providence, RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: William Templeton <wwt122@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:51 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6 month demolition delay

Dear City Council members-

I witnessed the death of "Duck & Bunny" on Wickenden Street.

By pure chance I was on a walk with my wife early on a Sunday morning in Fox Point. The quiet peaceful start to the beautiful day was rendered asunder by the roar of heavy equipment. We followed the din to the scene of a demolition derby.

The machines were working rapidly, voracious in their appetites, and made quick work of the building. I remember thinking how quickly something that had stood up for centuries could be taken down in a few minutes. I also remember thinking that the circumstances of this event were definitely deliberate.

Why? We were the only witnesses. I sensed that the small crew was directed to get it done quickly before anyone could be called or object. They were rushing. Nearly frantic. I thought it was wrong and I was unsure what to do. But as I considered that- moments passed and- it was done. The building was in splinters. The historic structure was gone forever. No way to bring it back.

Council members please know that I'm not opposed to progress. As a creative city we need to move forward - but I believe in process. History is the core of our city. History requires deference. Destroying is easy and quick. Thoughtful stewardship of our history and trust requires time.

>> Please support the six month delay measure and grant us some time for deliberations on the value of a historic property in our community, the impact of tearing it down, and the importance one more empty lot or new building. <<

Thanks for your time and devotion to our city.

William Templeton

Sent from my iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Brooke Kaufman <brookesf@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 7:00 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Proposed Ordinance

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Brooke Kaufman and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brooke Kaufman

8 Paterson Street

Providence, RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jonathan Harris <jonathanlyle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 7:10 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Historic Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition.

I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Harris
135 Power St., Providence

Sent from my iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kayak <Kayak@chudacoff.net>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 7:11 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Cc: info
Subject: [EXTERNAL] six-month demolition delay

Ms. Mastroianni, please forward the email below:

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am a long time resident of Providence and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Fisher Chudacoff

1 West Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02903

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Wendy Radin <wensrad@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 7:19 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Six Month Demolition Delay Ordinance

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Wendy Radin and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Radin

266 Waterman St., Providence, RI

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sarah Gleason <sgleason116@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:26 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support the six-month demo-delay ordinance

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to urge your support for the six-months demolition delay ordinance proposed for historic districts.

I moved to Providence in 1968, and have long-appreciated the remarkable historic buildings that give the city so much of its character. I have also seen needless destruction of many that could have been adapted for reuse, if time had been given to consider alternatives. Buildings within historic districts also belong, in some sense, to their neighborhoods, and finding continuing uses for them can only strengthen these districts, which are so important to the civic health of our city.

Finally, as every day we are reminded of the frailty of our environment, every effort should be made to preserve the resources embodied in these buildings. Tearing down old buildings and replacing them with new ones is hugely wasteful, and can only hasten the environmental destruction we see all around us.

Thank you,

Sarah Gleason
229 Medway Street #204
Providence, RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Lanham Bundy <lanhambundy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:34 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 6 months notice demolition delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my full support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

I ask you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity, because there's evidence that we've destroyed historic neighborhoods in the past. I live in one, which has all traces of its history nearly removed.

Thank you for your time and attention to this useful solution to preserving our social history.

Kind regards, and thank you for your work,

L. Lanham Bundy

--

Lanham Bundy

lanhambundy@gmail.com

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Petra Jenkins <jenki006@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:59 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Cc: Petra Jenkins
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testifying in Support For 6 Month Demo Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Petra Jenkins
1 Wayland Ave #305N
Providence, RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jim Barfoot <barfootjim@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:13 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support For 6 Month Demo Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique. Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

We have recently seen beautiful and grand old houses near Brown destroyed to make room for bland, even ugly buildings very much out of character with the neighborhood. When the main driving consideration is profit for the developer, little thought is given to the overall character of the city's most attractive area. This doesn't need to happen.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition. I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Jim Barfoot
90 Twelfth St. Providence 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Norma J Anderson <normajanderson1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:25 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support the 6 month development delay in our neighborhood.

Sent from my iPhone

Chairman Pedro J. Espinal
Ordinance Committee, Providence City Council
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02905

Dear Chairman Pedro Espinal, Councilman Oscar Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley Peterson,

We, the nearly 300 signatories below across the City of Providence, are signing this petition to show our support for the proposed six-month delay for demolition applications within Historic Districts. These changes are essential for safeguarding Providence's historical and architectural vibrancy.

The six-month delay for demolition applications within Historic Districts is a prudent measure, allowing time to explore preservation alternatives, except in emergencies.

Mandating archival documentation for historically valuable structures ensures that the history and significance of our historic buildings are preserved.

These amendments strengthen our goals for preservation, enriching our community for future generations and making Providence a special place to live. We urge your support for these changes.

Thank you for considering our support.

First Name Last Name Address Or Neighborhood

Elisabeth Moore 46 Furnace St #1

Charles O'Boyle 305 Brook Street

Jheraldy Mercado 69 Pekin Street

Marsha Gomes 3 Fern Street

Marisa Scanavino Fox Point

Matt Finkelstein

Susan Cat Collyer Federal Hill

Paula Romasco 129 Upton Ave

Rebecca Gibel 11 Fisher St. Providence, RI 02906

Ida Schmulowitz Fox Point

L. Lanham Bundy Federal Hill

James Silverthorn 124 Elmgrove Ave Providence 02906

Stephen Bouley Freeman Plat Historic District

John Mattson 405 Lloyd Ave

Sarah Abeles Wayland Square

Tina Velazquez Manton Ave, Providence

Lee-sean Huang Federal Hill

Alan Sondheim Westminster St. Downtown

Christopher Fortunato Wayland Square

Elyn Macinnis Summit

Mara Koppel Downtown

Patrick Schule Fox Point

Arthur Hopper 107 Sunbury Street Providence Ri 02908

Chris Woods 02906

Lindsey Beal Fox Point

Frances Carpenter 293 S Main St Providence Ri 02903

Victoria Karlsen 415 Angell Street

Patricia Raub 86 Bradley Street

James Burleigh Morton 195 Power Street, Unit 5

Mary Belden Brown Fox Point

Janet Swift 125 Governor St

Katherine Murphy 23 S Angell St, Providence Ri

D Hope Dubois 66 Savoy St.

Barbara Garabedian 555 South Water St # 311

Sally Kingsbury

Leon Fortin Jr Wayland Square

Kathleen Rourke 37 6th St

Norma Anderson Fox Point

William Applegate 106 Benefit St Providence Ri 02903

Faye Cook College Hill

Dana Starbard 10 Barnes Street, Apt 4

Paul Hoover Wayland North

Joseph Pereira Fox Point

Kate Hanley 52 Top Street

Jennifer Clair Fox Point

Judy Vilmain 147 Rankin Avenue

Susan Schlesinger Jewelry District

Brandy Mckinnon 42 Hidden St, College Hill

Alexandra Earle 1 Butler Ave. #315, Providence Ri 02905

Paula Weindel 100 Woodbine St. / Mt. Hope

Tracy Eliz Thurber 518 West Main Rd, Little Compton

Susan Wood 279 Morris Avenue

Mary Leite 6 Goulding Street #1

Sara Low 196 Bowen Street, Providence, RI 02906

Melinda Mailhot 150 Union Street

Amy Green College Hill

Brooke Kaufman 8 Paterson Street, Providence

Daniel Grande Wayland Square Neighborhood

Jacob Rogers 23 Pitman St

Kelli Elligott 91 Evergreen St Providence 02906

James Shelton Fox Point

Joy Wharton 4 Jenckes Street

Susan Einbinder Jewelry District (18 Imperial Place)

Herman Brewster 146 4th St

Kathleen Bower

Orlando Mateus East Side

Madeline Brewster 146 4th St

John Brezack 1 Wayland Ave, Unit 310s

Carole Finger 575 Wickenden Street, Apt 607

Danielle Amorim 7 Governor Street, Providence 02906

Erica Lasorsa Fox Point

Elizabeth Maltby 3regency Plaza

Barbara Navas 10 Fisher Street

Michelle Cortes-harkins 99 10th Street, Providence, RI 02906

Doris Donovan 229 Medway Street #307

Gayle Gifford 178 Ninth Street

Laurene Harrington 24 Keene Street

Jean Stoddard Wayland

Samantha Andersen 31 E Manning Street

Jonathan Howard 178 Ninth St

John Woolsey 27 John Street

Nancy Whit Wanskuck
Lauri Lee 140 Governor St
Stephen Graham Fox Point
Jaclyn Currier Reservoir Triangle
Deborah Penn College Hill
Alex Perdue North Elmwood Historic District
Anna Browder 22 Irving Avenue, 02906
Roseanne Camacho 92 Melrose Street In Elmwood
Judy Blackadar 100 John St
Lynette Kapsinow 258 Waterman Street
James Dealy 52 Larch St
Elizabeth Pannell Charlesfield St
Emily Kloeblen 92 Ivy St Providence 02906
Gail Donovan 206 Sixth Street. Providence 02906
Jane Bird 73 Manning Street
Oliwia Krupinska 178 Gano St
Matthew Farrow Emeline Street, Providence, Ri
Kathi Blocklyn 145 Butler Ave, Unit 3s
Ck Daniel 214 Cypress Street
Stephen Mattos
Marjorie Powning 22 East Street
Kim Salerno 25 Benefit Street
Alan Cobb East Side
Oliver Joukowsky

Greg Sargeant 145 Governor St.

Michael Langlais Fox Point (East Side)

Lisa Pryor Blackstone

David Y Mount Hope

Angel Dean 24 Doane Ave Providence RI 02906

Irene Jefferson 283 Benefit Street

Malte Schwarzkopf 49 Thayer St, Providence, RI 02906

Sarah Gleason 229 Medway Street, 204

Eric Speenburgh Phillips Street

Elizabeth Wheeler 12 Benevolent Street, Providence, RI 02906

Scott Shuler 1 Burrs Ln, Providence, Ri 02904

Jayna Aronovitch Fox Point

Claudia Perri 125 Governor Street

Laurence Kotlikoff 8 Burrs Lane

Lars Carlson Wayland Square

Lisa Foster 165 Governor St

Robert Tevyaw Fox Point

Richard Rambuss College Hill

Blaire Byg 129 Butler Ave, Apt 2, Apt 2

Carla Ricci 1 W. Exchange St

Peter Pizzarello Blackstone Neighborhood

Julia Carlson Wayland Square

Susan Moubayed 72 E Manning St

Roxanne Leach 401 Wickenden Street, Providnce

Lindsey Bouley 257 Doyle Ave

Karen Mcaninch Summit

Linda Pritcher 118 University Ave

Kurt Teichert Williams Street, Fox Point

Craig Riegler 150 Union Street

Joanna Swiski Wayland Square

Barry Dejasu Wayland Square, Providence, RI

Edward Bodington 47 Nisbet St

Wesley Heywood Hope

Milo Winter Jewelry District

Anthony Caffrey Fox Point

Debra Balken Jewelry District

Jason Protass East Street, Fox Point

Sharon Lee 6 12th Street

Mary Brabeck 5 Arnold St

Jack Nolan 229 Medway Street, Providence 02906

Peter Heywood 61 Woodbury St, Providence, RI 02906

Tom Archier 101 Keene Street, Providence RI 02906

Amanda Notz Fox Point

Dylan Peacock Elmwood

Marcus Farmer Fox Point

Ellen Rooney 144 Power Street

Wendy Radin Wayland Square

Debbie Schimberg Upper South Providence

Yvonne Smart 709 Hope St

Khachig Tololyan 144 Power St., Providence RI 02906

Claire Climer 126 Waterman Street

Helene Miller 179 Hope Street Pvd 02906

Nancy Evans Lloyd 25 Blackstone Blvd

Charles Hewitt 35 Benefit Street

Andrea Sarokin Foxpoint

Alynn Joshua 1 Chestnut St., Apartment #512

Tara Barnes Mount Hope, Mccann Place

Carol Deboer-langworthy College Hill

Susan Ewen 567 Angell Street

Virginia Forbes Wayland

Madeline Klein Summit

Hasan Khan Wayland Square

Heidi Dennigan 25 Phillips Street

David Wilson 100 Arnold St #1r, Providence, RI 02906

Deborah Hale 125 Governor St Apt4

Ruth Breindel 617 Hope St

Margaret Lewis Fox Point

David Buda Elmwood

Edward Laughlin 56 Arnold St

Bridget Jourgensen 8 Burrs Lane

Amanda Starr Summit

Richard Amorim Governor St

Ellen Bruzelius Downtown

William (Bill) Templeton Fosdyke Street

Paula Constantine 123 Williams St

Michael Holt Massey 383 Benefit Street

Elsie Jill Tobak 40 Brenton Ave

Candace French 625 Hope St

Nidia Schuhmacher 222 Williams Street Unit C, Unit C

Diane Straker

Judy Barros 575 Wickenden St Apt 606

Jonathan Harris 135 Power Street

Katherine Trimble 81 Transit Street

Sara Nugent 259 Benefit Street, Unit 2

Stephen Foley Illegal Hill

Laurel Truesdell Reservoir Ave. Triangle

Petra Jenkins Wayland Square

Robert Thurston-lighty 26 Diman Place Providence RI 02906

Linda Brophy 555 South Water

Erin Mcdermott Downtown

Carolyn Betensky Jewelry District

Jenny Marzano 236 Camp St

Elizabeth L. Scull 57 Larch Street, Providence, RI 02906

Jillian Frias Mt. Pleasant

Stewart Martin East Side

Brian Theyel 168 Laurel Ave, Providence, Ri

Andrea Feldman West Side/armory District
Neath Pal 116 Fosdyke St
Theresa Elva Mathiesen 45 Lauriston St.
Amy Recker
Beth Chaplin 137 Doyle Ave, Providence, RI 02906
Lauren Hyman Fox Point
Jennifer Luxmoore West Side Business Owner
Alec Mcleod 75 Knowles St.
Arthur Norman Taber Avenue 02906
Edward Neubauer 20 Creston Way, Creston Way
Oliver Bennett 236 George Street, Providence
Doris Hector 7 Forest Street, 5 Forest Street
Janet Isserlis Fox Point
Lisa Evans Freeman Pkwy
Karen Longeteig Wayland Square
Mary Frappier 210 Highland Ave
Sarah Barker 110 Lloyd Ave
Sue Hart 393 Montgomery Ave, Providence 02905
Jason Hogue 18 Hart Street, Providence
Julia Netter Fox Point
Amanda Davidson 116 Ivy Street Providence, 02906
Mike Bell 112 Sheldon St
Laura Spear 18 Arnold St., Fox Point
Pauline Talbott Governor & Waterman Streets

Jennifer Gage East Side

Evelyn Lincoln 233 Williams Street

Matt Collyer Federal Hill

Karen Anderson 10 Exchange Ct 409, Pawtucket 02860

Dexter Strong 89 Keene St.

N Nicholson Mt. Hope

Anne Connor Downcity

Brooke Hammerle Elmwood Historic District

Mary Ann Daley 28 Colonial Road Providence RI 02906

Arran French

Candace Powning Fox Point

Richard Haynes Mount Hope

John Shaw 69 Fremont St Providence Ri

Chris Davidson 114 Ivy St.

Kevin Neel Ward 11

M Turner Foxpoint

Judith Tolnick Formerly Old Tannery Rd. In Pvd; Currently 10 Exchange Ct #502
Pawtucket 02860

Roberta Schwartz 39 Milford St 02910

Corrie Mook 11 Nisbet St

Jesse Marsden

Maude Dorr 81 Larch Street Unit 1

Lauren Langlois Wayland Square East Side

Kelley Cason 331 Williams Street Unit 5

Doug Victor Elmwood

John Harkey 90 Larch St., 02906

Holly Nesbeitt 322 Williams St

Dexter Wilson Elmhurst

Janice Luongo 162 Orms St

Susan Derita 100 Isabella Ave.

Margery Powell 50 Park Row W, Apt 425

John Wilner Silver Lake

Roz Rustigian 392 Benefit Street, Providence, Ri

Jeffrey Wickham 35 Sheldon Street

Marianne Ruggiero 51 Trenton St., Apt. 1

Jonathan Seely 156 Hope Street

Lisa Niebels South Providence

Katherine Feeney Wayland Square

Zulette Catir 31 John St, Historic District East Side

Renee Buisson 115 Transit St.

Maria Sokolova Fox Point

Nancy Chudacoff Downtown

Megan Mckain 71 Arnold Street

Srinivas Reddy 46 Wade Street

Rachel Schwartz 171 Power St

John Rutana 160 Waterman St, Unit 1

Ryan Conlin 44 Williams Street

Diana Lidofsky College Hill

Katrina Demulling 268 Brown St Providence

Coppélia Kahn 207 Williams Street, Providence, RI 02906, Fox Point

Traer Scott 44 Armstrong Ave

Thibaut Schilt Wayland

Justin Baptista 34 Hilltop Avenue

Rosalyn Gerstein 73 Manning Street

Kelli Elligott East Side

Peter Phipps 192 Transit Street

Robert Fontaine 1 Exchange St. Providence

Lynne Bell 324 Rochambeau Ave

Richard Schieferdecker 122 Brook St. Providence, RI

Carolyn Betensky 3 Ship St

Carol Morton 165 Power Street Providence

Nina Tannenwald 167 Medway St, Providence RI 02906

Dexter Vincent 224 Adelaide Ave

Ashley Romerl Mt Hope

Patricia Brennan 31 Sheldon Street, Fox Point, Providence -02906

Deming Sherman 254 Irving Avenue

Bruce Allen 23 Summit Ave. Providence RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Marisa Scanavino <scanavinomarisa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:14 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Demolition Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Marisa Scanavino and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marisa

Mastroianni, Tina

From: John Goncalves <john_goncalves@alumni.brown.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:49 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Comment for CPC Referral 3579

Brent Runyon
9 Hollywood Rd.
Providence, RI 02909

I am writing in support of Councilman Goncalves' proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance to allow for a six month demolition delay for all buildings in locally designated historic district overlay zones.

First, it is good to codify the requirement for documentation of buildings before they are lost.

Second, though demolition in local historic districts is rarely granted, it is not unheard of. The current delay imposed by the HDC's standards and guidelines is insufficient to protect the city's vast and diverse array of historic resources. A longer delay period could help surface alternatives to demolition, such as an interested preservation-minded buyer coming forward to save a building from demolition.

Third, as Mr. Azar wrote in the staff report, the HDC currently applies to "structures that contribute" but does not apply to "utilitarian outbuildings or newer buildings or additions that do not contribute." While it should not be the City's goal to save every structure, it is the case that the City does not update its surveys often enough to ensure that it knows what buildings or additions contribute to the district. The city's planning staff typically has adequate knowledge to recognize buildings that have architectural qualities that merit preservation. But they are not equipped with the knowledge to recognize the cultural or historical significance of sites. A period of delay can and should be used to gather more information on structures that are being considered for demolition. The current system as structured does not give anyone enough time to conduct research between an application and a CoA being issued. This ordinance can fix that.

Finally, this ordinance does not go far enough to protect the city's historic resources, but it is a good step forward. As Mr. Azar points out in the staff report, "there have been no demolitions...in over 20 years" in the locally designated residential districts. What the City *should* be doing is implementing a demolition delay ordinance for all buildings in nationally-designated historic districts, such as the College Hill Landmark District, where there have been dozens of demolitions over the last 20 years, to the point where the district will likely be shrunk or delisted when it is next evaluated. Some may argue that the local districts recognize what the City has deemed as historically-important. Yet, the National Register Historic Districts have been recognized by the State and Federal governments. Do we not consider it odd that the City places no importance on the preservation of those resources?

In lieu of such a shift in mentality, the proposed ordinance amendment that is before you takes a step that places little additional burden on anyone, but is moving the City in a more preservation-friendly direction.

I urge you to offer your support of this ordinance.

Thank you,

May 21, 2024

City Plan Commission
Department of Planning & Development
444 Westminster Street, Suite 3A
Providence, RI 02903-3215

Dear Commissioners,

In anticipation of the meeting scheduled for this evening, Tuesday, May 21, the Mile of History Association (MoHA) would like to convey its full support of City Councilman John Goncalves proposed Amendments of Chapter 27 of the code of Ordinances entitled "The City of Providence Zoning Ordinance," adding provisions to Section 1911 Certificate of Appropriateness related to demolition in Historic Districts.

Oversight by the Historic District Commission in the form of a certificate of appropriateness is strongly supported and should apply to all demolition throughout the Providence.

Demolition delay will allow time for review of the application by the HDC, abutting neighbors, and other agencies.

Considering the fact that 31 % of the City of Providence is in a historic district or under the guidelines of the HDC or RIHPHC, it is vital to compile and retain the records of proposed or actual demolition.

Limiting the application and re-application period to one year will minimize knee jerk applications.

In view of the proposed amendments to the current zoning ordinance, MoHA believes additional staff should be budgeted which requirement should be added to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,

Liz Rollins Mauran
President, The Mile of History Association

Cc: Councilman Goncalves, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilwoman Anderbois

Mr. John Goncalves
City Councilor, Ward 1
Providence City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

Dear John;

As Chair of the Elmwood and South Providence Neighborhoods Crime Watch, I am sending my support to the legislative changes outlined in the ordinance amendments that are set to regulate demolition activities within Historic District Overlay Districts (HDC), aiming to ensure and strengthen the provisions on the preservation of structures deemed valuable for their historical significance.

My understanding is that the changes will include:

1. Demolition Permit Issuance and Historic District Commission Review:

No demolition permits will be issued until the Historic District Commission has completed its review process and issued a certificate of appropriateness. This ensures that any proposed demolition within historic districts will be thoroughly evaluated for its impact on the historical value of the area before proceeding.

2. Demolition Delay:

For any application seeking the demolition of structures within a Historic District Overlay District, there will be a mandatory delay period of six months from the date of application before a certificate of appropriateness can be issued by the Historic District Commission. This delay is designed to provide ample time for consideration and potential alternatives to demolition but will not apply in cases of emergency demolition.

3. Archival Documentation:

Before a demolition permit can be granted for structures identified as historically valuable, the applicant will be required to compile an archival package. This package will need to include a history of the property, elevation drawings, floor plans, and photographs of both the exterior and interior. This documentation will have to be submitted to both the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, for inclusion in the Rhode Island Historical Resources Archive, and the city archives department. This process aims to preserve a historical record of the structure.

4. Reapplication Restrictions:

Following the denial of a demolition application, without an appeal or significant change to the structure due to damage or other events, no new application for the same or similar work will be allowed to be filed for one year after the initial rejection. This restriction is intended to prevent repeated attempts to demolish structures of historical value without substantial reason.

We need to protect the historic integrity of all of our Providence neighborhoods.

Thank you.



Mastroianni, Tina

From: Barbara Garabedian <bjgarabedian1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:08 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for 6 month demo delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Garabedian
5 55 South Water St unit 311 Providence, RI 02903

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Frances <fbcfrances@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:23 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frances Carpenter

Frances Carpenter, 293 S. Main St, Providence RI 02903

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Srinivas Reddy <sitarsrini@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:43 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Six-month demolition delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Srinivas Reddy and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations.

Sincerely,

Srinivas Reddy
46 Wade St., Providence, RI 02903

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ॐ Om, peace, peace, peace
www.sankalpana.org

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Robert Fontaine <r_fontaine@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:01 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Six month Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Fontaine

1 W Exchange Street #1801

Providence, RI

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Katrina Demulling <katrinademulling@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:11 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support a 6 Month Demo Delay in Historic Districts

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Katrina Demulling and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts.

Part of what makes Providence special is its rich historic architecture. Large swaths of it were nearly torn down in the 50s/60s, which led to the first creation and recognition of historic districts. Over the past several years, we've seen that the protections in place today are not enough to protect buildings and ensure smart city growth.

We need a 6 month demolition delay.

These historic assets serve 3 important roles:

1. They enrich our community
2. Attract tourism
3. Support local businesses

As a historian, I was attracted to move to Providence because of its rich history and how it preserves and restores irreplaceable structures. I live in a historic district in a historic home. I personally have seen these benefits as renters are drawn to my multi-family home's features and historic neighborhood. My 120 year old house has led me to patronize local businesses to restore and preserve it.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

Several of the recent plots of historic houses that were torn down have remained barren lots full of trash and debris for much longer than 6 months since their demo. This delay will not significantly slow down new construction, but will allow an opportunity to ensure steps are taken to preserve and consider options before tearing down an irreplaceable historic building.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katrina Demulling
268 Brown St, Providence

Mastroianni, Tina

From: ROBERT TEVYAW <bobtevyaw@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:41 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Council Ordinance Committee- re Demolition Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition.

I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Tevyaw
105 John Street

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Matthew Collyer <cattmollyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Demolition delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Collyer

84 Vernon

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Patricia Raub <praub86@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:30 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I strongly support the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives.

I urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Raub

86 Bradley Street

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Stephen Graham <sirgrahame@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Preserve Fox Point

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson

Fox Point, and other historic neighborhoods, are unique to Providence. Indeed, they drive our tourism, arts and creative community.

Recently, more and more, Wickenden Street, in particular, has suffered from historic buildings being torn down and replaced with strip mall facade construction. We do not need to change the nature of the entire culture to accommodate development. The people who live and work here need to have more input into what is happening around them. The only reason this is an attractive neighborhood is because of the very culture that has developed here. We do not want to destroy the very thing that attracts so many people to it.

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Graham

President, SRG Resources Computer Consultation
108 Hope St. Apt. B
Providence, RI 02906

--
Steve

<http://www.facebook.com/sirgrahame>

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Food for thought:

"When asked "What thing about humanity surprises you the most?", the Dalai Lama answered:

"Man.... Because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived."

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sam Andersen <sam.e.andersen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony - 6/25 Meeting

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Samantha Andersen and I am writing to express my **strong support** for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm. Additionally, I walk by two empty lots - empty for months, unkempt and ugly - daily on my way to work (at Brown University) and to pick up my children at school (at Vartan Gregorian). One year ago both of these lots had historic homes on them, while they might not have been in perfect condition they were more attractive than the chain link fence harboring weeds, trash, and who knows how many rodents that take up that space today. I hope that this ordinance prevents blights like these, allowing builders and communities to come together to discuss alternatives and ways to protect the character of the beautiful history of our unique city.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Address]

Mastroianni, Tina

From: deborah schimberg <debbie.schimberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:22 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Demolition Delay Ordinance

Dear City Councilors,

I am very much in support of the proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance that you're considering tonight. Frankly, we need it, not only in the city's historic districts, but also in nationally designated historic districts, as well. As Providence plans to grow and add population, it is crucial that it not lose what makes us all recognize this city. A demolition delay will enable developers and neighbors to investigate alternatives and work together to harness resources to prevent knocking down historic structures in the name of progress.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance.

Thanks,

Debbie Schimberg
Ward 11

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Doug Victor <doug.crimewatch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:27 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Demotion delay letter

Hello, Tina,

Hope this finds you well!

Please accept the following letter into the public record.

Thank you!

Doug

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Doug Victor. I live at 103 Princeton Avenue in our fair city of Providence.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Victor
103 Princeton Avenue, Providence. RI 02907



Noel Sanchez
President

Alozie Nwosu
Vice President

Courtney Reardon
Vice President

Adam Millard
Secretary

Brian Oakley
Treasurer

Board

Annie Brida
Nic Canning
Kaitlynn Castillo
Sussy Deleon
Shelby Doggett
Eugenio Fernandez
Sam Jaksa
Stephanie Larrieux
Leigh Ann Razza
Joe Roch

Staff:

Siobhan Callahan
Rod Mortier
Katie Lehart

June 25, 2024

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition. I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Siobhan Callahan
Executive Director, WBNA

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Linda Brophy <LindaBrophy@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:31 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Demolition of historic buildings

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Linda Brophy and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Brophy

555 South Water Street #328

Providence, RI 02903

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Nini Stoddard <ninistoddard@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:35 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] demolition delay ordinance

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong **support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts.**

Historic preservation honors our past and provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I urge you to approve this ordinance.

Thank you,

Jean Stoddard

375 Lloyd Ave. #2A, Providence, RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Rooney, Ellen <ellen_rooney@brown.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 12:44 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Cc: Ellen Rooney
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am Ellen Rooney, a resident of Providence, and I am writing to express my very strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. What is happening to our city is a mistake that will haunt us in the future. The proposed ordinance is essential to preserve the historical and architectural integrity of our city. We were among the first in the nation to realize the value of historic buildings and their unique character. We should not abandon our longstanding efforts to protect them and our citizens.

These historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets. They connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity and protect a scale of life that is rich and grounded. They attract tourism, support local businesses, and enrich us all. Preserving these structures is both an investment in our historic vibrancy and in our sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay allows for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensures that potential demolitions are thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings. The results of our indifference are multiplying before our eyes -- they are not pretty, and they are damaging the very fabric of the community.

Please vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Rooney, 144 Power Street, Providence

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Orlando Mateus <omateus1167@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:41 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Cc: info
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support For 6 Month Demo Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition.

I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Orlando Mateus
361 Lloyd Ave.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: mrdpavo@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Demo Delay Ordinance Vote

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance in historic districts. This ordinance is crucial to maintaining the unique historical and cultural fabric of Providence, which is a cornerstone of our community's identity.

Historic preservation not only honors our past but also provides tangible benefits to our community. These buildings attract tourists, support local businesses, and foster a sense of pride among residents. Moreover, preservation is an environmentally responsible choice that reduces construction waste and conserves resources.

Implementing a six-month delay will ensure that each demolition request is carefully evaluated, with ample time for public input and the exploration of alternatives. This thoughtful approach balances the need for development with the preservation of our irreplaceable historical assets.

I respectfully urge you to approve this ordinance, reinforcing our commitment to protecting Providence's historic fabric. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dylan Peacock
209 Congress Ave
Providence, RI 02907

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Paula Weindel <paulaweindel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 2:18 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6 Month Demo Delay ordinance

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

I am reaching out to express my enthusiastic support for the six-month demolition delay ordinance for historic districts. This measure is vital for safeguarding the historical and architectural treasures that make Providence unique.

Our historic buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to our city's rich history and cultural diversity. By preserving these landmarks, we honor the legacy of those who built our community and ensure that future generations can appreciate our shared heritage.

The six-month delay will provide the necessary time for thorough evaluations and public discourse, helping to identify viable alternatives to demolition.

I urge you to support this ordinance and demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving Providence's historical integrity. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Paula Weindel

100 Woodbine St.
Providence, RI 02906
401-203-9937

"The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking."
— *John Kenneth Galbraith*

2B

The statewide advocate for Rhode Island's historic places

June 21, 2024

To: Providence Ordinance Committee

Re: Proposed demolition delay provisions

Dear Members of the Ordinance Committee,

Preserve Rhode Island (Preserve RI), the statewide advocate for historic preservation, submits these comments in regard to the proposed addition of provisions to Section 1911 Certificate of Appropriateness in Chapter 27 of the City of Providence Zoning Ordinance.

Recent teardowns in Providence have caused a great deal of warranted community concern about the irretrievable loss of historic buildings and degradation of historic areas. While the intent of the provisions noted above may be to enhance the City's ability to protect historic buildings, providing time for a thorough consideration of demolition applications, the proposed ordinance is not properly crafted. In Providence, all of the recent demolitions of historic buildings have occurred outside of areas zoned as historic districts. This ordinance only addresses demolition of buildings already within historic districts zones— but such buildings are already protected. The current Historic District Commission (HDC) review process has proven it provides ample time to review demolition proposals and strong regulatory protection of locally designated historic buildings. Adopting a new provision to extend a six-month delay on demolition proposals in local historic districts is unnecessary, counterproductive and confusing. Instead, in order to manage demolition proposals effectively, the focus should be on either expanding historic district boundaries or implementing a city-wide Demolition Delay ordinance that creates a review process for significant buildings outside of historic district zones.

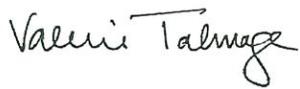
City-wide Demolition Delay ordinances are very common nationwide, and several RI communities have been given authorization to adopt them. In the example of the recent demolition of three buildings on Angell St., the property owner was allowed by right to tear down the buildings because these buildings are not within a designated historic district. A Demolition Delay ordinance would have given the HDC an opportunity to evaluate significance, require and review redevelopment plans, petition community input, and have time to discuss alternatives to demolition. While demolition delay ordinances are not a guaranteed measure to save buildings, they can at minimum put a pause on the process and broaden the conversation.

preserve

R H O D E I S L A N D 957 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904 | www.PreserveRI.org | (401) 272-5101

The preservation and adaptive reuse of existing building stock in historic neighborhoods and beyond has been proven to be a strong economic driver and vital to maintaining community character and sense of place. Local historic district zoning is one of the strongest measures to prevent the demolition of historic resources, and the current process in Providence has been working successfully for decades. For those historic properties that are not within designated local historic districts, we encourage Providence to consider adopting a city-wide Demolition Delay ordinance to help prevent unwanted teardowns and demonstrate a stronger commitment to historic preservation. Sadly, the proposed ordinance does not strengthen protections against demolition either inside or outside of areas designated as historic districts, and should not be adopted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Talmage". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Valerie Talmage, Executive Director
Preserve Rhode Island

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas,
Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and
Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Alfred Jeffries and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alfred Jeffries

1 Potter Dr.

Providence, RI 02907

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Paula Constantine <phc1993@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:46 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter in support of 6-month demolition ban ordinance

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, however I wish to register my strong support for the 6-month demolition delay ordinance.

Please forgive my lack of specifics, as I am trying to get this letter in before the meeting. The following letter represents my opinions and observances only.

Dear Council members,

I have been a resident of Providence's East Side, which is now within the College Hill Historic District, since my family moved here in 1968. Like many of my friend's families, my parents took a risk and renovated a house room by room. My mother still lives in the house, and I will inherit it. I currently live in another house within the historic district, as listed below.

I now see the city, and especially the East Side, as a victim of its own success. The problem now is not homeowners making decisions for their own properties, or even investors buying houses that had been on the market for months or years. When we were notified of a request for a change in zoning, it was always for something minor, like a kitchen expansion, or making an extra parking space. What I see is developers buying as soon as the house hits the market and using them like a cash machine, without any concern for how it affects residents. My family has seen this in our own neighborhood, with multiple projects turning single-family houses into multi-family ones, and attempting to alter or demolish historic structures to squeeze another dwelling unit on the site. We were not notified of the massive scope of the project. My experience with the broken promises of developers and the limitations of zoning officials and historic entities to protect our neighborhood has influenced my opinions.

Specific to this ordinance, I support all the provisions of the 6-month demolition delay ordinance. In my opinion, it does not even go far enough to protect historic homes and neighborhoods in Providence.

First, even 6 months is very little time to oppose any project. A board member from the public meeting said something like two board meeting cycles was plenty "for anyone who was paying attention" to mount an effective response. I believe it also was stated that only abutters within something like 200 feet of the affected property need to be notified of any changes. These current time and distance provisions are not sufficient. Residents may be away, may not be the property owners, may have other things going on, or not believe it is worth fighting. This ordinance would give residents a little more time to prepare and increase the pool of people who ought to be informed of changes that alter the character of their neighborhood. Also, we have found that investors/developers are attempting to conceal their identity, making attempts to negotiate more cumbersome.

During the last meeting, another member held that the ordinance was unnecessary, because no houses or structures had been demolished in the historic districts for 20 years, while maintaining that the ordinance

would not have prevented some recent notorious demolitions. In my opinion, this is defining the matter very narrowly and does not take into account the impact of another ordinance proposing to expand the city's historic districts. (I also support this proposal.) I have been shocked to see more houses torn down on the East Side in the last 5 - 10 years than at any other time in my life, including multiple houses demolished at one time. I am saddened that now Brooks Street is far too ugly to drive down, for example. It may be technically true that most of these buildings were outside the small, demarcated area of the historic district, but the effect is that it has made the historic area where I live less attractive and less liveable.

It also doesn't account for the unintended consequences of another measure to downgrade zoning within the city to open more properties for multiple units. Providence attracts thousands of visitors for its historic character. That is not achieved by having a single house, or even a single street like Benefit Street preserved like a snow globe. Providence, and particularly my neighborhood on the East Side, is impressive because one can wander for blocks and be immersed in history and beauty.

I therefore urge the City Council to pass this ordinance.

Respectfully,

Paula Constantine
123 Williams St.
Providence, RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Rachel Schwartz <rachelmschwartz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:08 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6 Month Demolition Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Rachel Schwartz and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the historical and architectural integrity of our city, which is a vital part of Providence's unique character and charm. No one, no matter how much money or influence they have, can build an historic home or other structure. Once it's gone it's gone forever.

Historic buildings and homes are irreplaceable assets that connect us to our past and provide a sense of continuity and identity. They enrich our community, attract tourism, and support local businesses. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard the rich history of Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Schwartz

171 Power Street
Providence, RI 02906

401-255-0408

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kramer, Peter <pdk@brown.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:25 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Cc: info
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Six-Month Demolition Delay

Dear Chairman Pedro J. Espinal, Councilman Oscar O. Vargas, Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, Councilor Justin M. Roias, and Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson,

My name is Peter Kramer. I am a long-time Providence resident, and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to implement a six-month demolition delay in historic districts. This ordinance is essential for preserving the architectural integrity of our city.

Historic buildings and homes are what make Providence special—a great city to live in and to visit. We all benefit from them and are diminished when they are lost. Preserving these structures is not only an investment in our historic vibrancy but also in our future sustainability by reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship. I am sure you are horrified as I am by some of the recent rapid demolitions that destroyed historic homes to no clear end except the hope of excess profit.

The proposed six-month delay will allow for comprehensive assessments and public input, ensuring that any potential demolition is thoroughly considered and that alternatives can be explored. This is a balanced approach that respects the importance of our historic buildings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance and help safeguard Providence for future generations. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Kramer