



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Office of the Secretary of State

Edward S. Inman, III, Secretary of State

August 21, 2002

Mr. John Lombardi
President
Providence City Council
City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

Room 217
State House
Providence
Rhode Island
02903-1105

Administration/
Public Information:
401-222-2357
T.D.D.: 401-222-2311
Fax: 401-222-1356

Dear Mr. Lombardi:

State Archives
401-222-2353
Fax: 401-222-3199

Per our conversation, please be advised that Secretary of State Edward S. Inman, III will be in attendance at the Providence City Council meeting on September 5, 2002.

Corporations/UCC:
401-222-3040
Fax: 401-222-1309

Secretary Inman will be presenting a copy of the Declaration of Independence to yourself in your capacity as President of the City Council.

Elections:
401-222-2340
Fax: 401-222-1444

Please note this on your agenda if you need to do so. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to call me at 222-2357.

First Stop Business
Information Center:
401-222-2185
Fax: 401-222-3890

Sincerely,

Ana Cabrera
Communications Director

Notary/Trademarks:
401-222-1487
Fax: 401-222-3879

State House Library:
401-222-2473
Fax: 401-222-3034

<http://www.state.ri.us>

IN CITY COUNCIL
SEP 5 2002
READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED

Declaration History

Just after the Declaration of Independence was ratified in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, messengers sent by the Continental Congress distributed copies to all the 13 original colonies. Rhode Island's General Assembly received theirs on July 18, 1776.

Legislators approved the Declaration and directed then Secretary of State Henry Ward to make copies for each of the 28 communities in the colony. Ironically, Solomon Southwick, an editor of *The Newport Mercury* who was charged with printing those copies, carried out the task on a press once owned by one of the Declaration's signers--Benjamin Franklin.

Of all the Rhode Island town copies, the West Greenwich document is among eight known to have survived.

This precious piece of our state's history nearly was lost to all when in December of 1999, Preserve Rhode Island, a historic association that unearthed the Declaration, announced intentions to sell it at the New York auction house, Christie's. But State Archivist Gwenn Stearn believed that the copy was a state record and therefore the property of the people of Rhode Island. Plans for the sale were halted and negotiations regarding the future of our state's copy of the Declaration began.

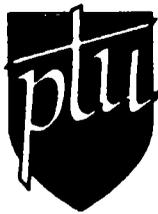
Finally, in August of 2002, Rhode Island Secretary of State Edward S. Inman, III brokered an agreement between the state of Rhode Island, the town of West Greenwich and Preserve Rhode Island. This accord called for Secretary Inman to raise \$200,000 to give to Preserve Rhode Island and the town of West Greenwich, which then agreed to lease the document to the Secretary of State.

The price: one dollar a year for the next century.

On July 18, 2002, 226 years after Secretary of State Henry Ward first distributed the document to the people of the Colony of Rhode Island, Secretary of State Edward S. Inman, III will once again make the Declaration of Independence available to the people of the state of Rhode Island.

Secretary Inman's proposal makes this the only colonial-era Declaration of Independence available for public viewing in all of New England. The copy will be permanently displayed at the Heritage Harbor Museum.

Secretary Inman, as his predecessor Henry Ward did 226 years ago, is distributing copies of the Declaration to all the cities and towns to mark this historic occasion.



Providence Teachers Union

A F T • A F L • C I O

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Philip J. DeCecco
President

Joseph A. Almagno
Executive Director

Maura M. Galvao
*Director of
Member Services*

Don Gormley
*Director of
Member Services*

Father Nick Milas
*Union In-Service
Coordinator*

July 24, 2002

Ms. Anna Stetson
Second Deputy City Clerk
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Ms. Stetson:

I will be the Providence Teachers Union representative on the City Council's Committee on Education.

Mr. Steven Smith, Vice President-at-Large of the Providence Teachers Union, will serve as an alternate.

Sincerely,

Philip J. DeCecco
President

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Richard R. Ernest CLERK