

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**No.** 366

**Approved** August 15, 2005

**WHEREAS**, The organization known as the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W. or “Wobblies”), founded in 1905, is now one hundred years old; and

**WHEREAS**, The Industrial Workers of the World proclaimed itself the champion of the foreign-born, the non-white and “unskilled” worker, firmly opposed to the practice of limiting union membership to the elite of labor alone; and

**WHEREAS**, The Industrial Workers of the World guided the famous Lawrence, Massachusetts (“Bread and Roses”), textile strike of 1912, successfully uniting a dozen nationalities under one banner, coordinating support for strikers from across the United States, including Rhode Island; and

**WHEREAS**, The Industrial Workers of the World founded a center for organizing the unskilled of Rhode Island in Providence in 1906, from Federal Hill, led by Italian political refugee Luigi Nimini, and published a distinguished newspaper, *Ragione Nuova*; and

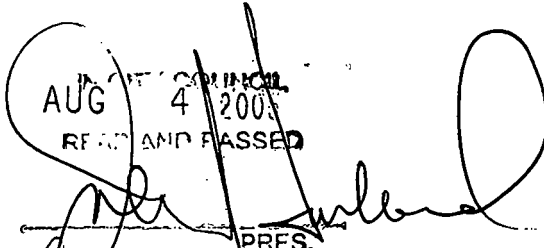
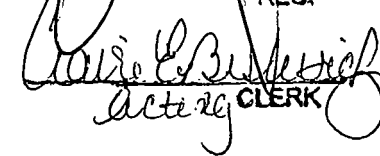
**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island IWW leader, community dentist and former bobbin boy James P. Reid was elected to the state legislature for one term, from Olneyville, 1910-1912, distinguishing himself by appeals for the welfare of common people; and

**WHEREAS**, Providence supporters of the famed IWW leaders falsely arrested in Lawrence, Joseph Ettor and poet Arturo Giovannitti, marched in large numbers toward City Hall in September, 1912, turned back from legal assembly; and

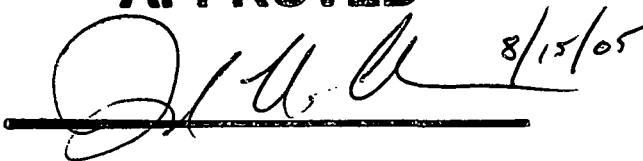
**WHEREAS**, Textile workers across Rhode Island, including Providence, went out on strike together in 1913, under the banner of the IWW, seeking to end the industrial tyranny of low wages and terrible working conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, Wartime strikers under the banner of other unions, and postwar strikers in 1922 and 1934 revered the memory of the Industrial Workers of the World, foreshadowing the consolidation of industrial unionism and the betterment of labor conditions for all Rhode Islanders.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Industrial Workers of the  
World is recognized and saluted by the City of Providence on its centennial anniversary.

  
CITY COUNCIL  
AUG 4 2005  
READ AND PASSED  
PRES.  
  
Acting CLERK

**APPROVED**

  
8/15/05

**MAYOR**

Sponsored by Councilman Luna  
For August 4, 2005

**Resolution in Honor of the Centennial Anniversary of the  
Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**

**WHEREAS** the organization known as the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W. or "Wobblies"), founded in 1905, is now one hundred years old; and

**WHEREAS** the Industrial Workers of the World proclaimed itself the champion of the foreign-born, the non-white and "unskilled" worker, firmly opposed to the practice of limiting union membership to the elite of labor alone; and

**WHEREAS** the Industrial Workers of the World guided the famous Lawrence, Massachusetts ("Bread and Roses"), textile strike of 1912, successfully uniting a dozen nationalities under one banner, coordinating support for strikers from across the United States, including Rhode Island; and

**WHEREAS** the Industrial Workers of the World founded a center for organizing the unskilled of Rhode Island in Providence in 1906, from Federal Hill, led by Italian political refugee Luigi Nimini, and published a distinguished newspaper, *Ragione Nuova*; and

**WHEREAS** Rhode Island IWW leader, community dentist and former bobbin boy James P. Reid was elected to the state legislature for one term, from Olneyville, 1910-1912, distinguishing himself by appeals for the welfare of common people; and

**WHEREAS** Providence supporters of the famed IWW leaders falsely arrested in Lawrence, Joseph Ettor and poet Arturo Giovannitti, marched in large numbers toward City Hall in September, 1912, turned back from legal assembly; and

**WHEREAS** textile workers across Rhode Island, including Providence, went out on strike together in 1913, under the banner of the IWW, seeking to end the industrial tyranny of low wages and terrible working conditions; and

**WHEREAS** wartime strikers under the banner of other unions, and postwar strikers in 1922 and 1934 revered the memory of the Industrial Workers of the World, foreshadowing the consolidation of industrial unionism and the betterment of labor conditions for all Rhode Islanders.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Industrial Workers of the World is recognized and saluted by the City of Providence on its centennial anniversary.