

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 194*

*Approved* APRIL 25, 2008

WHEREAS, The federal project-based Section 8 program provides subsidies to multi-family apartment owners to keep rents affordable to 1.3 million low income families, elderly and disabled people nationwide, including the residents of the City of Providence in the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has provided \$6.14 billion to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for project-based Section 8 in Federal Fiscal Year 2008, a significant increase over the \$5.5 billion requested by the administration in its 2008 budget request; and

WHEREAS, On November 16, 2007, HUD's Chief Financial Office, John Cox, acknowledged in a letter to the House Financial Services Committee that the actual amount required to renew all Section 8 contracts that expire during Federal Fiscal Year 2008 for a full one year term is \$8.1 billion, \$2 billion more than the amounts now available for Federal Fiscal Year 2008; and

WHEREAS, It is now apparent that HUD and the White House Office of Management and Budget have understated the amounts needed for annual renewals of Section 8 contracts in the administration's request to Congress for the past few years, in order to shift funds to other administration priorities; and

WHEREAS, HUD ran out of funds to renew expiring contracts with owners during Federal Fiscal Year 2007, resulting in a crisis of late reimbursements to owners, which forced many to skip utility and mortgage payments and to cut back repairs and maintenance to residents; and

WHEREAS, It is now apparent that HUD averted the catastrophe of funding cutoffs and mass displacement of low income tenants in 2007 only by "short funding" contract payments to owners for less than one year and diverting funds from other program accounts; and

WHEREAS, HUD has stated that the anticipated \$2 billion shortfall in Federal Fiscal Year 2008 will be addressed by again "short funding" contracts to owners this year;

WHEREAS, HUD's controversial practice of 'short funding' contracts has created uncertainty and instability among owners and financial markets that finance low income housing, and anxiety among residents that their homes may not be secure; and

WHEREAS, Owners of more than 500,000 Section 8 apartments nationwide located in higher rent areas may now consider "opting out" of their Section 8 contracts due to the new financial uncertainty, leading to a permanent loss of scarce housing available to low income households; and

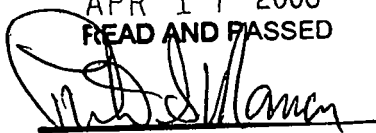

WHEREAS, The Section 8 shortfall, now estimated at \$2.4 billion, combined with the administrative complexities of HUD's new approach, could result in HUD cutting off funds to owners during Federal Fiscal Year 2008, forcing these owners to triple rents paid by low income households overnight to cover their operating costs, resulting in mass displacement of affected tenants; and

WHEREAS, HUD's November 16, 2007 letter acknowledges that if HUD cuts off payments to owners due to lack of funds, there are currently no federal requirements whatsoever to provide notice to owners or tenants or measures to protect tenants from massive overnight rent increases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Providence City Council recognizes the vital importance of project-based Section 8 housing to low income families, elderly and disabled people in the state, and the need for financial security to owners and lenders of Section 8 housing;
- 2) That the City of Providence is concerned that the shortfall in Section 8 funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2008 and HUD's administrative practices threaten the state and nation with the permanent loss of scarce affordable housing and the possibility of mass displacement of low income families;
- 3) That the City of Providence urgently calls upon the United States Congress to adopt Special or Emergency Supplemental Appropriation of \$2.4 billion for project-based Section 8 funding as soon as possible during Federal Fiscal Year 2008, to make appropriate provision for full one year renewals of all Section 8 contracts subject to annual appropriation in the Congressional Budget Resolution for Federal Fiscal Year 2009, and to adopt protections for tenants in the event of funding termination or cutoffs by HUD;
- 4) That the City of Providence communicate this resolution to the members of the Providence Delegation and to the United States Congress.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
APR 17 2008  
READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.  
**APPROVED**  
  
CLERK

  
**MAYOR**

4-25-08

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 195

*Approved* APRIL 25, 2008

WHEREAS, At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century many European immigrants arrived in Providence seeking employment and a better way of life for them and their families; and

WHEREAS, The city of Providence began providing public bathing facilities as early as 1913 to mitigate health dangers associated with the lack of indoor plumbing and encourage frequent bathing; and

WHEREAS, The Wickenden Street Bath House in Fox Point (a.k.a. the Fox Point Bath House) was completed in 1926; and

WHEREAS, The bath house provided area residents with a way to stay healthy and clean as well as a social center and community meeting place; and

WHEREAS, A 1953 zoning law required hot running water in all residential buildings which eliminated the need for public bath houses; and

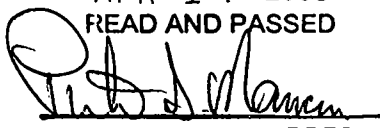
WHEREAS, The Fox Point Bath House subsequently found use as a library and storage area until falling into a state of neglect and disrepair in the 1970's; and


WHEREAS, Many concerned citizens recognized the value of restoring the building to its previous grandeur for the use and betterment of the surrounding community and adjacent elementary school; and

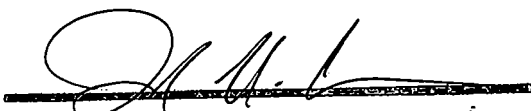
WHEREAS, Renovations to the bath house were completed in 2007 the result being a state-of-the-art library for use at the Vartan Gregorian Elementary School as well meeting space for the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council does hereby request that the City of Providence officially rededicate the Fox Point Bath House at Vartan Gregorian Elementary School.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
APR 17 2008  
READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
APPROVED  
CLERK

  
MAYOR

4-25-08

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 20 2008  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

CLERK

THE COMMITTEE ON  
Urban Redevelopment  
Renewal & Planning  
Recommendations  
Amended  
4/9/08  
CLERK

**THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No.* 196

*Approved* APRIL 25, 2008

WHEREAS, Mary C. Brennan began her teaching career at Vartan Gregorian Elementary School in January, 1977, as a Bilingual/ESL teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mary's career at Gregorian Elementary continued; first as an elementary teacher and then as Curriculum Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, In September, 1995 Mary was named Principal of Gregorian Elementary and served with distinction until December, 2003; and

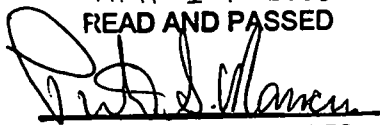
WHEREAS, During her tenure as Principal she was an outspoken and tireless advocate for the arts; and

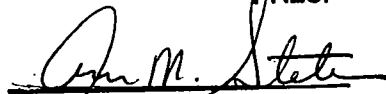
WHEREAS, One of the many highlights of Mary's tenure as Principal occurred in December, 2002 when Gregorian Elementary was the only school in the state to achieve their English & Math targets for two consecutive years, despite a school population having almost 90% of its population at or near poverty levels; and

WHEREAS, Mary Brennan's past dedication and leadership has contributed to the Gregorian Elementary continuing to be an outstanding center of learning within the Providence School System; and

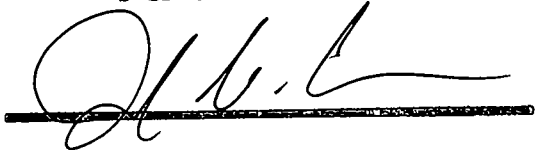
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby request that the library inside the recently refurbished Fox Point Bath House be named after Mary C. Brennan.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
APR 17 2008  
READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
CLERK

**APPROVED**



MAYOR 4-25-08

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 20 2008  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL  
*Am. M. Ste*  
CLERK

*Amir M. Ste*

THE COMMITTEE ON  
Urban Redevelopment  
Renewal & Planning  
Recommends  
*Am. M. Ste*  
Approval - 9/9/08  
CLERK