

CITY OF PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND



The Credo of the Providence City Council is to be Industrious, to be Watchful and to Promote Peace. The bee, as a symbol of industry, is derived from the early colonial saying "Busy as a Bee"; the goose, as a symbol of watchfulness, is derived from the story of the goose whose cackling saved Rome; and the lamb, as a symbol of peace, is derived from the biblical use of the lamb as a symbol of peace.



IN CITY COUNCIL
JAN 19 2023

APPROVED: *Jina L. Mastrosini* CLERK

CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 1 City Council Organizational Meeting, Monday, January 2, 2023, 12:00 o'clock P.M.

PRESIDING

COUNCIL WOMAN MARY KAY HARRIS

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: PRESIDING OFFICER HARRIS, COUNCILOR-ELECT ANDERBOIS, COUNCILWOMAN ANTHONY, COUNCILMEN ESPINAL, GONCALVES, COUNCILWOMAN-ELECT GRAVES, COUNCILOR MILLER, COUNCILWOMAN-ELECT PETERSON, COUNCILOR-ELECT PICHARDO, COUNCILOR-ELECT ROIAS, COUNCILWOMAN RYAN, COUNCILOR-ELECT SANCHEZ, COUNCILMAN TAYLOR, COUNCILWOMAN-ELECT VARGAS AND COUNCILMAN VARGAS – 15.

ALSO PRESENT: TINA L. MASTROIANNI, ACTING CITY CLERK, SHERI A. PETRONIO, FIRST DEPUTY CITY CLERK, ANGELA J. HARRIS, FIRST DEPUTY CITY CLERK, CLAIRE E. GIRARD, CLERK LIAISON, HUASCAR D. BEATO, CITY SERGEANT AND JEFFREY DANA, CITY SOLICITOR

INVOCATION

The Invocation is given by **ROCHELLE LEE**.

"Today, we come together to celebrate a new year and the swearing in of City Council members. They will each take an oath of public service to protect and promote the interests of all who made their city as their home, a work place or a destination. Today's ceremony is brightened by a long awaited milestone we thought would not come this soon. Our fifteen council members are from the ranks of many full generations. A diversity of cultures, spoken first languages, race, national origin, lived experience and gender identity. For only the third time in the council's history this body will be led by a woman, a woman with extraordinary talent who leads with an abundance of grass roots skills. For the first time the council will also be led by a queer woman. As a city we are blessed to have such a diversity of prospectives and talents to govern the peoples house. With your swearing in today, you stand on the shoulders of numerous explementary council members. There are many to emulate, but I will mention one in particular, Councilman Miguel Luna. Some of whom you know and admire. If Miguel were here today I know he would say a servant leader understands and embraces shared ideas, collective responsibility, team work, inclusion and fairness. He would insist that as elected officials your success rests in the pursuit of truth, but you must instinctively rebut the destructive reach of economic inequality, social injustice and disregard completely apathy and disinterest for those who are less fortunate. Miguel would also tell you to use your power to give voice to those who would only speak in whispers. So, as you go about your work consider the words of Angela Davis, an award winning scholar and heroic fighter for human rights. She once said "I am no longer excepting things I cannot change, I am changing things I cannot except". These words are the seeds of faith, faith in our human capacity to change the world for the better. So, grow your faith and your collective willpower to be the ages of change we desperately need right now. As a council you will ponder numerous issues that impact our social and environmental wellness. Do not shy away from its daunting nature because these are changes that only worsen with neglect. Kicking the can down the road is no longer an option, today, tomorrow or the days after. As officials managing the affairs of our city hesitate not to ask questions and challenge premises and promises which too often obscure the persistent and dangerous economic divide between the haves and the have nots. As our voices in government know we are counting on you not to turn a blind eye to those experiencing hardship or in despair because a just society leaves no one behind. Treat all you need as equally important as your neighbors, your local constituents and potential partners, if you do you will flourish as leaders. As you execute your duties here seek to engage those who are helping others, their work will lessen the weight on your shoulders. Remember the issues and tasks before you are the people's business. Choose to work with others who care about our city particularly those who show up when there is nothing finished on the table. As city councilors your decisions must be informed by the breath of ideas and proven efforts which expand and deepen the reach of Providence's growing prosperity and remember to cherish each day with a sense of hope, joy, purpose and promise. The responsibilities of your council work can be merciless on your family, family relations, your friendships, your spirits, your good health. With fifteen diverse neighborhoods calling upon this council our destiny and identity as a thriving city is in your hands. Your success is our success. We need you each to love and care for us and for one another just as if we were the faces in your circle of supporters. As you will soon take oath to faithfully represent the people of Providence please accept our thanks for wanting to do this work. In conclusion, let us acknowledge that the City of

Providence stands on the traditional lands of the Narragansett Nation and the Niantic people. With profound respect who knows the enduring relationship between Rhode Island's indigenous people and this land. For generations indigenous peoples have been mis stewards of the land we occupy. The ocean and the entire earth. We are here today because the history and present day traditions of Rhode Island's indigenous nations. So, continue to render your fellowship and support to uplift a long struggle for justice, tribal independence and economic empowerment. Again, my best wishes to council's new leadership team and our sincere thanks for each and every one of you and your service."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COUNCILMAN-ELECT MIGUEL A. SANCHEZ Leads the Members of the City Council and the Assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Certificates of Election from the Board of Canvassers Certifying the Election of the Members of the City Council for the City of Providence, for the ensuing term of Four Years ending on the first Monday in January, 2027.

*Councilman John Goncalves (Ward 1)
Councilwoman Helen D. Anthony (Ward 2)
Councilor-Elect Sue R. AnderBois (Ward 3)
Councilor-Elect Justin M. Roias (Ward 4)
Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan (Ward 5)
Councilor-Elect Miguel A. Sanchez (Ward 6)
Councilwoman-Elect Ana S. Vargas (Ward 7)
Councilman James E. Taylor (Ward 8)*

*Councilor-Elect Juan M. Pichardo (Ward 9)
Councilman Pedro J. Espinal (Ward 10)
Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris (Ward 11)
Councilwoman-Elect Althea A. Graves (Ward 12)
Councilor Rachel M. Miller (Ward 13)
Councilwoman-Elect Shelley T. Peterson (Ward 14)
Councilman Oscar O. Vargas (Ward 15)*

PRESIDING OFFICER HARRIS Receives the Several Certificates.

RESULT: RECEIVED

OATH OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Oath of Office of Members of the City Council Administered by the Honorable John E. Martinelli, Esquire, Judge of the Probate Court.

The Solemn Oath of Office to the Several Members and Members Elect of the City Council of the City of Providence, Rhode Island for the ensuing term of Four Years, ending on the first Monday in January, 2027, is thereupon administered by the Honorable John E. Martinelli, Esquire, Judge of the Probate Court.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDING OFFICER HARRIS Calls for Nominations for the Office of President of the City Council for the Term 2023-2027.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR Nominates **COUNCILOR RACHEL M. MILLER**, and this Nomination is Seconded by **COUNCILMAN GONCALVES**.

PRESIDING OFFICER HARRIS Calls for further Nominations and there being none, on motion of **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR**, Seconded by **COUNCILMAN GONCALVES**, it is voted that Nominations be closed and the Clerk is directed to cast One Ballot for **COUNCILOR RACHEL M. MILLER**.

The Clerk casts One Ballot as directed.

PRESIDING OFFICER HARRIS Thereupon declares **COUNCILOR RACHEL M. MILLER** duly Elected as President of the City Council for the ensuing term of Four Years ending on the First Monday in January 2027.

Oath of Office of Council President, Administered by Judge John E. Martinelli.

The Solemn Oath of Office to **COUNCILOR RACHEL M. MILLER**, as **COUNCIL PRESIDENT**, administered by the Honorable John E. Martinelli, Esquire, Judge of the Probate Court.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT RACHEL M. MILLER
IN THE CHAIR**

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Calls for Nominations for the Office of Pro Tempore of the City Council for the Term 2023-2027.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR Nominates **COUNCILOR JUAN M. PICHARDO**, and this Nomination is Seconded by **COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS**.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Calls for further Nominations and there being none, on motion of **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR**, Seconded by **COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS**, it is voted that Nominations be closed and the Clerk is directed to cast One Ballot for **COUNCILOR JUAN M. PICHARDO**.

The Clerk casts One Ballot as directed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Thereupon declares **COUNCILOR JUAN M. PICHARDO** duly Elected as President Pro Tempore of the City Council for the ensuing term of Four Years ending on the First Monday in January 2027.

Oath of Office of Council President Pro Tempore, Administered by Judge John E. Martinelli.

The Solemn Oath of Office to **COUNCILOR JUAN M. PICHARDO**, as **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**, administered by the Honorable John E. Martinelli, Esquire, Judge of the Probate Court.

Appointment of Members of the City Council as Police Constables, Administered by
Dylan Conley, Esquire, Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Licenses.

The following Members of the City Council present are appointed and sworn in as Police Constables for the ensuing term ending on the first Monday in January, 2027 by Dylan Conley, Esquire, Chairman & Secretary of the Board of Licenses.

Council President Rachel M. Miller (Ward 13)
Councilor Sue R. AnderBois (Ward 3)
Councilwoman Helen D. Anthony (Ward 2)
Councilman Pedro J. Espinal (Ward 10)
Councilman John Goncalves (Ward 1)
Councilwoman Althea A. Graves (Ward 12)
Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris (Ward 11)
Councilwoman Shelley T. Peterson (Ward 14)
Councilor Juan M. Pichardo (Ward 9)
Councilor Justin M. Roias (Ward 4)
Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan (Ward 5)
Councilor Miguel A. Sanchez (Ward 6)
Councilman James E. Taylor (Ward 8)
Councilwoman Ana S. Vargas (Ward 7)
Councilman Oscar O. Vargas (Ward 15)

ELECTION OF CITY CLERK

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Calls for Nominations for the Office of the City Clerk for the Term 2023-2027.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR Nominates **TINA L. MASTROIANNI**, and this Nomination is Seconded by **COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS**.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Calls for further Nominations and there being none, on motion of **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR**, Seconded by **COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS**, it is voted that Nominations be closed and the Clerk is directed to cast One Ballot for **TINA L. MASTROIANNI**.

The Clerk casts One Ballot as directed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER Thereupon declares **TINA L. MASTROIANNI**, duly Elected as City Clerk for the ensuing term of Four Years ending on the First Monday in January 2027.

Oath of Office of City Clerk Administered by Council President Rachel M. Miller.

The Solemn Oath of Office to **TINA L. MASTROIANNI**, as **CITY CLERK**, administered by **COUNCIL PRESIDENT RACHEL M. MILLER**.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR Moves to Suspend Rule 2(a) of the Rules of the City Council to hold all Regular City Council Meetings in the Year 2023 at 6:00 o'clock P.M., Seconded by COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS.

CONVENTION

There being no further business, on Motion of **COUNCILMAN TAYLOR**, Seconded by **COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS**, it is voted to adjourn in memory of Kevin Girard and Christopher Pedorella at 12:42 o'clock P.M., to meet again **THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023 at 6:00 o'clock P.M.**



TINA L. MASTROIANNI
CITY CLERK

This meeting was recorded and the video may be viewed on demand via the internet. Please visit the City Clerk web site or contact us directly for details.

The City of Providence is committed to providing individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate and benefit from the City's programs, activities and services. If you have a disability and require accommodations in order to fully participate in this activity, contact Leonela Felix, Esq., Ethics Education and ADA Coordinator at 401-680-5333 or LFelix@ProvidenceRI.gov. Providing at least 72 hours' notice will help to ensure availability.