

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 173

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2020

WHEREAS, Providence is home to several world-class institutes of higher education, with thousands of college and university faculty, staff, and students who live in our city and in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 resulted in all local colleges and universities transitioning to distance learning, clearing out and closing of on campus dormitories, and sending students home for most of the spring in order to alleviate the public health risks for their students and the public; and

WHEREAS, Epidemiologists, including the American Medical Association, have warned that there is a potential for a second wave of COVID-19 cases in the Fall of 2020 which would coincide with the resumption of classes for the start of the 2020-2021 academic calendar; and

WHEREAS, If colleges and universities hope to reopen for in-person learning in the fall of 2020, we as a city need to do everything possible to collaborate with all members of our community to ensure the safety of all residents; and

WHEREAS, The faculty and students of our local institutions play an integral role in the social and economic fabric of the City of Providence and it will require all of us working together to enable the safe return of faculty and students to the City so that we can all begin to build a new normal without risking another wave of COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, The creation of reopening plans that set forth clear and actionable steps for how the colleges and universities intend on maintaining public safety when they do reopen campuses for in-person learning will signal to both the students and the residents of Providence that there is a way to co-exist safely and productively, even in the era of COVID-19.

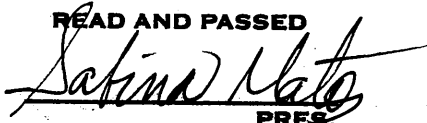
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that the Mayor of Providence establish a working group to coordinate the formation of reopening plans for all colleges and universities located within the City of Providence so that they may transition to hosting in-person learning for the 2020-2021 academic calendar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said College and University COVID-19 Working Group be comprised of one representative from the leadership of each college and university located within the City of Providence; a public health official from the Rhode Island Department of Health; the City Solicitor or his designee; the Providence Chief of Police or his designee; the Providence Fire Chief or his designee; the Director of Inspections and Standards or his designee; a member of the Rhode Island Hospitality Association; one (1) Rhode Island licensed real estate agent; one (1) owner and operator of rental housing in the city; at least two members of the Providence City Council; and such other members as the working group may deem necessary to advise on the best practices for reopening colleges and universities in a safe and effective manner to protect students and the residents of Providence.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 21 2020

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature



Shawn Selleck
City Clerk