

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 289*

**Approved April 20, 2018**

WHEREAS, The quality and affordability of housing has a major impact on the health, growth, and prosperity of our city; and

WHEREAS, According to HousingWorksRI, from 2000 to 2015, the proportion of cost-burdened renters in Rhode Island grew from 37% to 51%; and

WHEREAS, According to Rhode Island Housing, from 2000 to 2013, the proportion of cost-burdened households increased at every income level and grew 32.4% overall; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, HousingWorksRI estimated that a household earning the state's median household income would only be able to afford a median priced single-family home in three of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, The same study found that a household earning the state's median renter household income cannot affordably rent an average priced two-bedroom apartment in any of Rhode Island's cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, According to a recent Providence Journal article, in 2016, there were 1,580 evictions in Providence, an average of more than 4 evictions per day; and

WHEREAS, The National Housing Conference reported that, in 2014, nearly one quarter of renters in the Providence metro area spent at least half of their income on housing; and

WHEREAS, It is projected that Rhode Island will need to construct between 34,000 and 40,000 new housing units over the next ten years to keep pace with demand; and

WHEREAS, Despite the growing need for housing, Rhode Island had the lowest per capita spending on housing in New England in FY2015 and FY2016; and

WHEREAS, According to HousingWorksRI's 2017 Fact Book, Rhode Island is tied with Massachusetts for the third-oldest housing stock in the nation, and nearly 80% of rental units statewide were built before 1980; and

WHEREAS, Current research across the community development and public health sectors shows growing evidence of the interconnectedness of environmental conditions, including housing, and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Affordable housing can allow households more resources to pay for healthcare and healthy food, and high quality housing limits exposure to environmental toxins, such as lead and asthma triggers; and

WHEREAS, A special commission of subject matter experts and local stakeholders to research and make recommendations for improving housing quality and affordability in Providence would be an invaluable resource to the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby establish the Special Commission to Study Affordable Housing in order to study issues affecting the quality and affordability of housing in Providence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Special Commission to Study Affordable Housing shall consist of the following individuals:

- The Director of HousingWorksRI, or her designee;
- The Director of Programs for the Housing Network of RI, or her designee;
- The Executive Director of Rhode Island Housing, or her designee;
- The Executive Director of Rhode Island Builders Association, or his designee;
- The Executive Director of the Providence Housing Authority, or her designee;
- The Executive Director of the Rhode Island Office of Housing and Community Development, or his designee;
- The President of the Greater Providence Board of Realtors, or her designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as part of its review, the Special Commission to Study Affordable Housing will hold no fewer than six (6) public meetings and, within six (6) months, shall present the City Council with a report detailing its findings and recommendations, including any legislative changes, regulatory policies, and enforcement measures warranted by their findings.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

APR 19 2018

READ AND PASSED

David A. Spada  
PRES.

Low L. King  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]  
Mayor  
Date: 4/20/18