

## The Providence Neighborhood Planting Program

A street tree planting and maintenance partnership between the City of Providence, the Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Street Tree Endowment, the Helen Walker Raleigh Tree Care Trust and the people of Providence, Rhode Island.

### **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** *City Council members, Street Tree Task Force members,  
The Rhode Island Community Foundation.*

**From:** *Lesley Uργο, Coordinator  
The Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP)  
385 Westminster Street Providence, RI  
351-5802 351-0118 fax*

**Re:** *Mayor's Meeting with Mrs. Raleigh, Award of Bond Monies  
to Raleigh Trust (2/4/98, 1:00 p.m.)*

**Date:** *February 4, 1998*

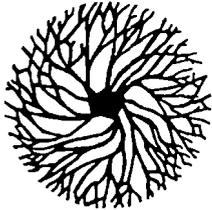
*Attached please find final copy of the press release documenting the February 4 meeting between the Mayor and Mrs. Raleigh, regarding the Raleigh Trust, making official the commitment of City Bond monies to the Trust/the Neighborhood Planting Program.*

*As the press release points out, the City's \$200,000.00 commitment (to match and challenge the initial Trust sum established by Mrs. Raleigh's generous gift) has seen the challenge met by additional fundraised dollars from the private sector. With City monies in hand, the Trust stands now at \$459,572.00.*

*To my knowledge, we are the only municipality in the country that has endowments dedicated to street tree planting work and to young street tree care. This bodes well for our neighborhoods and streets, in the 21st century!*

*Special thanks are due to City Council members, for their support of this allocation through Bond amendment votes.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 4, 1998**

### **NATION'S FIRST-EVER STREET TREE MAINTENANCE FUND** **ESTABLISHED IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

*Mayor Cianci Praises Long-Time Resident Helen Walker Raleigh for her Vision, and Commits a Portion of City Bond Monies to Help it Grow*

*Providence, RI:* Today, Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. allocated \$200,000 from the 1996 approved Bond monies as match and challenge grant monies for the Helen Walker Raleigh Tree Care Trust. This Trust, the first-ever public-private, street tree maintenance endowment fund in the country, promises to provide to Rhode Island Capital City residents monies each year that are dedicated to street tree care. Young tree care (pruning for shaping and long-term health, fertilization, and mulching) will be a focus of this Trust, and initial pilot projects will get underway in 1998. Routine, systematic maintenance is vital for young trees, with a long-life, good health, and enhanced beauty the result of such care. "Trees are frequently cited by residents as essential elements of a good neighborhood - the vitality of the urban forest of Providence must be a priority if we seek to insure a high quality of life for residents in all of the city's neighborhoods," the Mayor explained.

The new street tree maintenance trust owes its life to long-time Providence resident Helen Walker Raleigh, a spirited woman with great love for Rhode Island's Capital City. Mrs. Raleigh realizes the many burdens placed upon a municipality and its financial resources. Street tree maintenance, in Providence and elsewhere, has too often been neglected, deemed an "extra" that cities and towns cannot routinely afford. The Raleigh Trust establishes a permanent endowment within The

Rhode Island Community Foundation. Annually, a portion of the income of the Raleigh Trust will be spent on maintenance efforts. Like the Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Street Tree Endowment, which provides a funding arm for street tree planting funds, the Helen Walker Raleigh Tree Care Trust promises a funding source “in perpetuity” that will be used solely for the care of public trees throughout Providence. City Forester John T. Campanini, Jr. remarks that “the vision of Mrs. Raleigh, to guarantee such a source of funding for tree care, is fiscally sound, as this plan enables the City to become pro-active, rather than crises-driven, in its tree care practices. City foresters and planners around the country will recognize this quickly for what it is - a remarkably progressive and responsible approach to municipal tree care.”

The Trust was established at The Rhode Island Community Foundation by Mrs. Raleigh with a generous donation. The Street Tree Task Force, a voluntary board that oversees the citizen planting program, pledged to work towards fundraising additional dollars in recognition of the City of Providence’s \$200,000 award to the Trust. As of February 1, 1998, the privately-raised sum amounts to \$259,572.00, and together with the City award, the Raleigh Trust now stands at \$459,572.00. The challenge issued by Providence via the Mayor’s and the City Council’s award of the \$200,000 Bond grant to the Raleigh Trust for trees has been met.

Superintendent of Parks Nancy L. Derrig supports the initiative to find a source for systematic maintenance funds. “This is really the obvious next step,” she says. “Providence residents have witnessed and participated in the drive, over the past ten years, to fundraise and grow the Sharpe Endowment, for street tree planting, to \$1 Million, and maintenance is absolutely the next, and critical, step to take. Only after we have the assurance of both a perpetual planting and maintenance program, in place and invulnerable, only then will we have a truly enviable street tree program. Of course,” she remarked with a smile, “we’re still ahead of 95% of the rest of the country’s

cities and towns. This is due to a love of Providence, shared by Helen Walker Raleigh and Mary Elizabeth Sharpe, along with the Mayor's office, present and past City Council members, Parks personnel, and city residents. Tree-lovers, all!"

Mayor Cianci expressed great confidence in the Raleigh Tree Care Trust fund. "This \$200,000 Bond allocation finds a permanent life in the young trees that will be cared for and maintained in perpetuity," he said. "I am proud to play a role in enhancing efforts to beautify our streets through the enlargement of our urban forest and I am grateful to Helen Walker Raleigh for initiating the Trust, giving Providence something that will have a lasting impact on life in our neighborhoods."

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~8867 6 1 83 FEB~~ 19 1998

READ

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*Michael R. Clement* CLERK  
*ju*

Prepared by Lesley Urgo, 1/28/98.  
Amendments 1/30/98, 2/2/98.

Michael R. Clement  
City Clerk

Jean M. Angelone  
First Deputy



Barbara A. Poirier  
Second Deputy

Clerk of Council

**DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL**

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**FEBRUARY 19, 1998**

**ELECTION OF ONE JUDGE OF THE PROVIDENCE MUNICIPAL COURT**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI calls for Nominations for One Judge of the Providence Municipal Court.

COUNCILWOMAN DI RUZZO nominates CATHERINE E. GRAZIANO, ESQUIRE of Providence; and this nomination is seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI calls for further nominations and there being none, on motion of COUNCILWOMAN DI RUZZO, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG it is voted that nominations be Closed and the Clerk is directed to Cast One Ballot for CATHERINE E. GRAZIANO, ESQUIRE

The Clerk Casts One Ballot as directed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI THEREUPON DECLARES CATHERINE E. GRAZIANO, ESQUIRE duly Elected as Judge of the Providence Municipal Court for the remainder of this term ending on the First Monday in January, 1999.

State of Rhode Island  
and  
Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, Catherine E. Graziano, do solemnly swear that  
I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State  
of Rhode Island and the Providence Home Rule Charter and that  
I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of

Associate Judge of the Providence Municipal Court  
for a term to expire January 4, 1999  
to the best of my ability.

Catherine E. Graziano  
Catherine E. Graziano

I, Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. Mayor of Providence  
do hereby certify that on the 3rd day of March, A.D. 19 98,  
I did administer unto Catherine E. Graziano

*duly appointed to the office of*

Associate Judge of the Providence Municipal Court  
*the above subscribed oath.*

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.  
VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.  
Mayor of Providence

Michael R. Clement  
City Clerk



Jean M. Angelone  
First Deputy

Clerk of Council

Barbara A. Poirier  
Second Deputy

**DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL**

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**FEBRUARY 19, 1998**

**APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDITOR**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI calls for Nominations for the Appointment of City Council Internal Auditor.

COUNCILWOMAN DI RUZZO nominates KARL F. ERICSON of Providence; and this nomination is seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI calls for further nominations and there being none, on motion of COUNCILWOMAN DI RUZZO, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG it is voted that nominations be Closed and the Clerk is directed to Cast One Ballot for KARL F. ERICSON.

The Clerk Casts One Ballot as directed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI thereupon declares KARL F. ERICSON duly Elected as City Council Internal Auditor for the remainder of this term ending on the First Monday in January, 1999.