

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 401

Approved July 27, 2018

WHEREAS, The maintenance of safe and aesthetically pleasing roadways and sidewalks is a vital responsibility of local government; and

WHEREAS, In order to properly install, repair, and maintain equipment related to utility service, public utilities must occasionally open or excavate public roads and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, If not completed appropriately, such work by public utilities can leave City streets and sidewalks in poor condition, harming public safety, inconveniencing residents, and lowering the quality of life in our communities; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the National Resources Network (NRN) Strategic Fiscal & Management Plan for the City of Providence found a large backlog of sidewalk repair applications and estimated it would cost \$90 million to repair the City's sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, the NRN report stated that strengthening the City's capital infrastructure, such as roads and sidewalks, would "provide the foundation for stronger neighborhoods, improved quality of life of residents, and increased economic attractiveness and competitiveness for employers"; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2017 Infrastructure Report Card, 54% of Rhode Island's public roads were rated as in "poor condition," and Rhode Island's drivers face costs of more than \$800 per year from driving on roads in need of repair; and

WHEREAS, Improved notification, coordination, and oversight procedures for street and sidewalk excavation by public utilities would lead to cost-savings for both taxpayers and utility companies, as well as greater convenience for residents; and

WHEREAS, The issues surrounding the opening and excavating of streets and sidewalks are governed by both City ordinances and State statutes, are affected by decisions of both public and private actors, and impact all who live, work, and visit Providence, so a broad group of stakeholders must be engaged to adequately address these problems; and

WHEREAS, As public servants and the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has an obligation to ensure that roads and sidewalks are maintained in appropriate condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby establish the Task Force to Study the Impact of Public Utility Work on Providence's Roads and Sidewalks to study, review, and make recommendations for improving City and State laws, policies, and procedures affecting the impact of public utility work on public roads and sidewalks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That

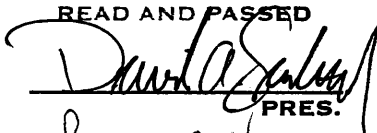
- 1) The Task Force shall be comprised of the following individuals:
- The Director of Public Works, or his designee;
 - The Director of the Providence Emergency Management Agency, or his designee;
 - Two individuals appointed by the Council President;
 - Two individuals appointed by the Mayor;
 - The Executive Director of the Providence Foundation, or his designee;
 - The Executive Director of Grow Smart RI, or his designee;
 - A representative of National Grid; and

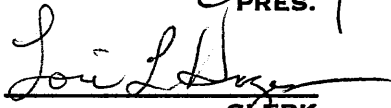
The Task Force shall issue a report with findings and recommendations, including but not limited to any recommended changes to City and/or State law, to the full City Council no later than March 1st, 2019.

IN CITY COUNCIL

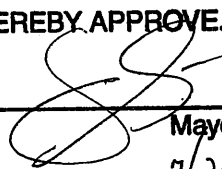
JUL 23 2018

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 7/27/18