

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 139

EFFECTIVE ~~APPROX~~ April 26, 2010

WHEREAS, Oliver Hazard Perry Middle School was built in 1929 for a total cost of only \$1.3 million; and

WHEREAS, The school was named two years later for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, a hero of the War of 1812, and a native Rhode Islander; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Hazard Perry school has been a fixture in the Hartford neighborhood for more than eighty years, educating three generations of Providence children; and

WHEREAS, The history of the building spans the Great Depression, World War One, World War Two, the Civil Rights Movement, and all the great tragedies and triumphs that have affected the people of Providence, and the students and teachers at Perry, over the course of the past eight decades; and

WHEREAS, Perry Middle School today educates a large percentage children facing hurdles to learning, including a large number who live at or below the poverty level, children who are English-language learners, and children who are in the special education program; and

WHEREAS, Despite these challenges, Perry Middle School has met academic standards three years in a row; and

WHEREAS, Hartford Park apartments, the city's largest public housing development, is situated directly across the street from the school, which is a valued educational institution for the children and parents who live at Hartford Park; and

WHEREAS, Members of the teaching staff at Perry Middle School are dedicated, hard-working, and passionate about the success of their students; and

WHEREAS, The Providence School Department 2010 Facilities Master Plan calls for the reduction of middle school capacity district wide, due to declining enrollment, and recommends the closure of Perry Middle School, due to the poor physical condition of the building; and

WHEREAS, Closure of the school would disintegrate the cohesive and effective learning community that exists at Perry Middle School; and

WHEREAS, The three-story classical school building and its grounds extend over two city blocks and are a focal-point in the neighborhood.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of

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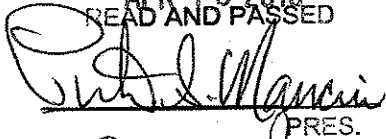
Providence does hereby urge the School Board and the Superintendent to halt all plans to close Oliver Hazard Middle School; and

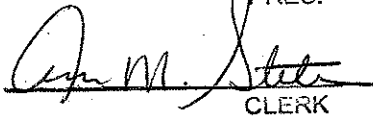
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the Mayor initiate the purchase of a bond in the amount necessary to renovate the Oliver Hazard Perry Middle School, in order to restore the school to its original state as an educational center for the Hartford neighborhood and surrounding community.

IN CITY COUNCIL


APR 15 2010

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature:


Anna M. Stetson
City Clerk