

CITY OF PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 7, 1963

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL

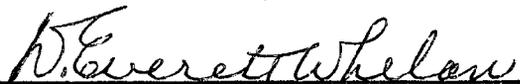
The Chair calls for nominations for the office of President of the City Council and Mr. Wexler nominates John F. Brock; this nomination is seconded by Mr. Sciarretta.

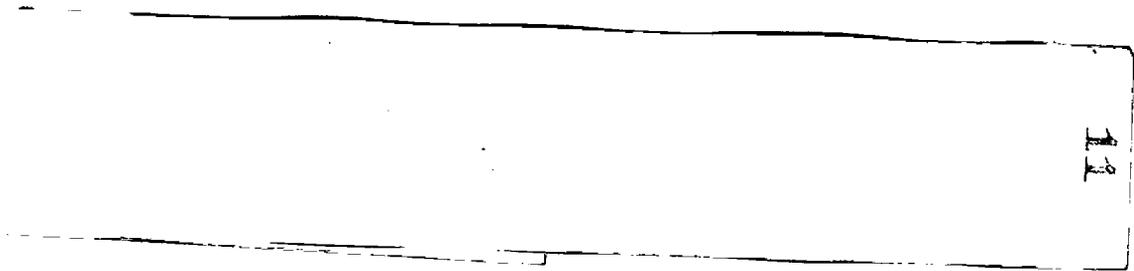
The Chair calls for further nominations and there are none.

On motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted nominations be closed, and the City Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Brock as President of the City Council.

The Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Brock as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares John F. Brock duly elected President of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the First Monday in January, 1965.


D. EVERETT WHELAN
CITY CLERK





D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 7, 1963

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

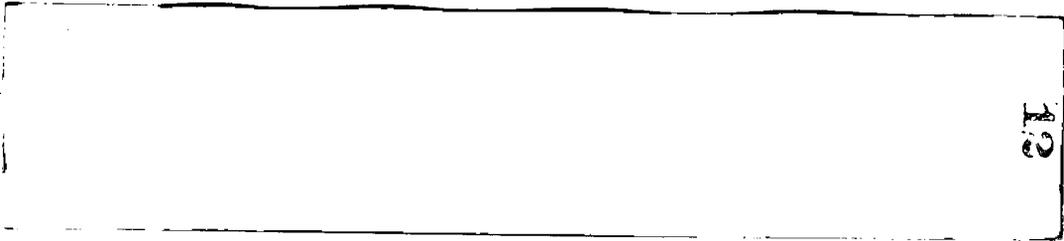
The Chair calls for nominations for the office of President Pro Tempore of the City Council and Mr. Caprio nominates Jerry Lorenzo; this nomination is seconded by Messrs. Boyle, McOsker and Sciarretta.

The Chair calls for further nominations and there are none.

On motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted nominations be closed, and the City Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Lorenzo as President Pro Tempore of the City Council.

The Chair thereupon declares Jerry Lorenzo duly elected President Pro Tempore of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the First Monday in January, 1965.


D. EVERETT WHELAN
CITY CLERK



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CITY OF PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 7, 1963

ELECTION OF CITY CLERK

The Chair calls for nominations for the office of City Clerk and Mr. Matera nominates D. Everett Whelan as City Clerk; this nomination is seconded by Mr. Doorley.

The Chair calls for further nominations and there are none.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted that nominations be closed and the First Deputy City Clerk be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Whelan as City Clerk.

The First Deputy City Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Whelan as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares D. Everett Whelan duly elected as City Clerk for the ensuing term of two years ending on the First Monday in January, 1965.

The oath of office is thereupon administered to D. Everett Whelan as City Clerk by Mayor Walter H. Reynolds.

D. Everett Whelan
D. EVERETT WHELAN
CITY CLERK

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, D. EVERETT WHELAN, do

*solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge
the duties of the office of*

City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

D. Everett Whelan

~

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 7th day of January, A. D. 1963,

I did administer unto D. EVERETT WHELAN

duly appointed to the office of

City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

January 7, 1963.

To the Honorable the City Council
of the City of Providence.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions
of Section 37, Chapter 832 of the Public Laws
of 1940, I have this day appointed Vincent
Vespia of Providence, as First Deputy City
Clerk and William E. McWilliams of Providence,
as Second Deputy City Clerk.

Respectfully,

D. Everett Whelan
D. Everett Whelan,
City Clerk.

DEW:dkm

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 7 1963

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

D. Everett Whelan
CLERK

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, VINCENT VESPIA, do

solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of

First Deputy City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

Vincent Vespia

~

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 7th day of January, A. D. 1963,

I did administer unto VINCENT VESPIA

duly appointed to the office of

First Deputy City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, WILLIAM E. McWILLIAMS, do

*solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge
the duties of the office of*

Second Deputy City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

William E. McWilliams

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 7th day of January, A. D. 1963,

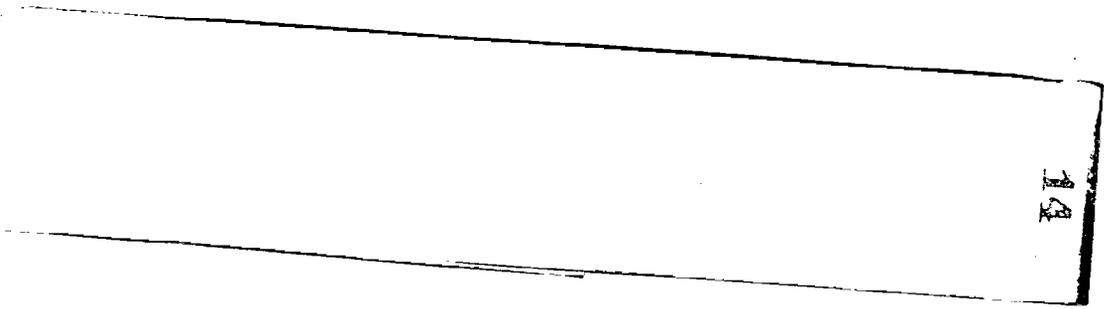
I did administer unto WILLIAM E. McWILLIAMS

duly appointed to the office of

Second Deputy City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds



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To the Honorable City Council
of the City of Providence

Gentlemen:

On Tuesday, November 6, 1962, voters of the City of Providence continued this administration in office for another two years.

I am confident this was a vote of appreciation afforded to a record of sound and constructive management, characterized by moral and intellectual honesty in personal and public relationships.

More than this, however, I believe it was also a vote of recognition - a concerted expression of consciousness that our City faces a difficult future, the needs of which can best be met by experienced leadership prepared to combine a rational boldness of concept with a requisite caution in execution.

The ability of this administration to meet financial problems, and the desire of our citizens to build for the future, has already been amply demonstrated. In the past two years we have made important additions to our water supply system. We have recently secured additional equipment to improve our snow removal program. We are about to undertake developments at our municipal dock which will accommodate a new tuna or other industry. The people have recently approved bond issues for a new incinerator at the sewage disposal plant, and for the construction of school facilities at Central-Classical and at Lippitt Hill. We shall move to complete these projects at all possible speed. We continue to stand firm in our opposition to the loss of homes and taxable values through the extension of the Huntington Avenue Expressway in the Elmwood section.

We have presented - and will again present to the new state administration - proposals for re-design of the Westerly approach to Red Bridge to conserve our East Side residential district and proposals for the coordination of the construction on George M. Cohan Boulevard, with east side renewal schedules in order to preserve industrial investment and jobs in that area.

Demonstrations of past competence are not of course "laurels" upon which we can prepare to "rest". We must proceed with face forward. We must consider ourselves as of this date a new administration. We possess youth and vigor both in this Honorable Body and in our various executive departments. We must employ these assets to the full. In this connection - as well as for other reasons - I welcome our new Council members, and greet also those who have been returned to office to share in the venture which lies ahead of us.

In preparation to meet and conquer a succession of tomorrows we are obliged to examine frankly and without bias the Providence of today. The prospect, Gentlemen, is neither bright, nor is it bleak.

We have recently endured a campaign during which the public was offered by aspiring candidates more misinformation and fewer facts than in any municipal election within my memory. These manufactured misconceptions centered mainly around the proposition that Providence is a high tax city. It is not. The latest Stoltz Report, which you Gentlemen have received, provides objective and conclusive evidence that, compared generally to cities of its population size and to similar cities in New England, Providence remains in a favorable tax position.

The fact that this and other unjustified assertions gained a measure of public credence is to some extent the fault of this administration, and probably would not have occurred had we had some better means for more frequent reporting to the people who would then have been better prepared to evaluate municipal operations. There is no doubt we must strengthen the public reporting function, and make available to the citizens of this city an improved accounting of our stewardship.

To some extent also a two-year term of office is too short a period for the voter to form conclusions as to the progress or desirability of administrative programs. A four-year term such as that which may be proposed for the governorship would tend to provide a more equitable basis for collective judgement by the citizenry. At the same time it would afford elected officials more time to concentrate exclusively upon public business. In addition to these sound reasons for lengthening the term of office, we must not overlook the financial burden which too frequent elections place upon taxpayers and upon campaign contributors, often solicited by several levels of government and by both parties. I shall soon therefore propose to you Gentlemen, and with your approval later to the General Assembly, that the office of Mayor of the City of Providence be increased to a four-year term.

Let us pause here to review the declining trend of population within our city limits. The 1950 Federal Census counted 248,000 persons in the City of Providence while in 1960 the same agency counted 207,000.

I cite these figures not from the traditional vantage of "viewing with alarm", but merely to emphasize that we are a city in physical transition from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. A reduction in total population is not a disadvantage per se. We are relatively old and a heavily built-up community. Many of our current problems and costs are the immediate result of age and congestion. Projections by our City Plan Commission incline me to believe that we may continue to experience a population loss with an ultimate stabilization of population of perhaps 180,000 persons, possibly by 1970.

More important than loss of mere numbers is the distribution of age and economic groups within these totals. Three-fourths of our loss between 1950 and 1960 was in the vital 20-44 age group. Granted that this bracket is most likely to be mobile, and to establish new homes, nevertheless, this is also the most productive portion of our population and it behooves us as a matter of policy to compete effectively for its satisfaction.

To do so we must continue our course of renewing and rebuilding our city, maintaining and modernizing our housing supply, preferably more through rehabilitation and less through condemnation and clearance. We must concentrate consistently upon the development of private income producing facilities such as those constructed in West River. This would also broaden our tax base. In my opinion, these should be our primary goals and all proposed capital expenditures should be carefully examined to determine the extent to which they contribute to these objectives.

Accompanying the significant loss in this segment of our

population is a relative increase in the very young age group and those sixty-five and over. Available evidence also indicates increases - at least relatively - in the less able financially and in the multi-problem type families, neither of whom possess the means to move readily from one community to another. The implications of these facts are also clear - a continued high level of school enrollments, more housing for the elderly, more personal and family services from both private and public social agencies, with the requirement that these be constructively coordinated within an adequately conceived municipal program aware of its obligations to minority groups of citizens.

As previously mentioned, concentration upon private income producing facilities is essential. Industrial rehabilitation, particularly for incubator-type industry, must be carefully explored. Fundamentally the income future of the City depends upon the health of existing industries. We must provide the environment in which these industries can increase productivity and thus further contribute to the income of the community. Improvements in transportation and availability of industrial sites are important elements. We must do what we can to stimulate research and development activities. Possible improvements in vocational education in both state and local levels to maintain a labor force adapted to an increasingly automated society recommends itself forcibly. These and other proposals which may be developed can - and I am confident - will create a gradual and sustained increase in our economic ability to solve concurrent urban problems.

Meanwhile, it is fully apparent that we must temper our approach - our programs and procedures - to current realities. Providence is a city of some wealth, but it is concentrated in relatively few hands. As of April 1960 the United States Census reported only ten percent of our population had total family incomes of \$10,000 a year or more, while approximately fifty percent had an income of less than \$5,000 annually. About one-fourth had incomes of less than \$3,000 annually.

From these facts emerge two inevitable and vitally important conclusions: first, we can count upon no immediate new income to undertake a necessary program of self-improvement, and the second - a corollary of the first - we must, insofar as possible, make every dollar do double duty.

Looking at the first of these propositions, we cannot equivocate with facts. The Stoltz study made it eminently clear that with the exception of Connecticut communities, the City of Providence receives less intergovernmental revenue - primarily state aid - than any other city of its size - \$25 per capita as against an average of \$55 per capita, a difference of \$6 million per year. To a considerable extent this is no doubt the product of an antiquated state revenue system which leaves individual communities dependent upon real and personal property for a majority of its income - seventy percent of which is derived from this source in the City of Providence. It seems clear that the possibility of additional revenue from the property tax, considered in relation to population losses and a high proportion of low income families, is remote.

This conclusion - inescapable and incontestable - has grim and immediate meaning. It is incumbent upon any person or organization proposing to increase expenditures to make known at the same time in what manner - above and beyond the tax on real and personal property - the funds to finance the proposal are to be procured.

Not only is the meaning of our revenue situation grim and immediate, its long-range implications are equally - or even more provocative. In a study recently prepared by the Economics Department of Brown University under contract to the Community Renewal Program, it was specifically documented that a seriously limiting factor with regard to the ability of the City of Providence to engage in renewal activities has been the rising costs of government. The study notes that if such costs, including debt retirement, continue to increase in the next ten years at the same rate as in the past ten years - and with the same revenue system - we would require a 1972 tax rate of \$47 per \$1,000 valuation.

This is not to imply, and it should not be inferred, that I shall recommend raising either real and personal property taxes or assessments. Quite to the contrary, it will be my policy - and I trust it will be yours - to maintain our favorable tax position, and to live within our income, however painful this may become in the period to ensue.

Some portion of the increase in operating costs in the past ten years has been due to increased capital undertaking and it is incumbent upon us, therefore, to review our present and proposed capital commitments to insure that we have as flexible and comprehensive a capital program

as our ability to retire debt will permit. Inflation has been a principal villain in mounting municipal costs. With this factor we can deal in one way - and in one way only - the City government must be operated more efficiently and more economically. Any increase in budget requests to be granted must be off-set by economies in this or in other areas of government. Granted this is harsh, but it is no harsher than the personal and family financial problems faced by our citizens, and in my opinion government must display the same courage in fiscal economy.

With regard to the second financial necessity - making the dollar do double duty - I am required to make a traditional, and also a revolutionary - or more accurately, an evolutionary approach.

On the traditional side the procedures involving budgeting, allotting of funds and like measures for planning and control of operating costs must be sharpened. Appraisals of all city services which promise any possibility of saving must be undertaken forthwith. Although the Stoltz Report shows Providence at the present time somewhat below the median in number of employees per one thousand population for cities of our size, we must nevertheless question the wisdom of filling certain jobs as they become vacant. We must inquire whether in each departmental function we are fully up-dated in methods of operation or whether some new techniques can effect further savings in personnel. I cite these only as possible avenues for exploration. Alert department heads and financial officers should be expected to develop others as well.

On the evolutionary side, we have long looked to city planning, to our building code, to redevelopment, and more recently to minimum housing standards as the agents by which our city will become renewed and competitive in a modern era, and attractive in environment for living and working. Over the years this has become an increasingly important and complex task. The emergence of new problems and the development of new laws and ordinances to deal with these problems have resulted in a multiplicity of departments, boards and committees, individually working intelligently toward a common objective, but sometimes from differing philosophies. Programs directed to urban renewal have also been complicated by a steadily broadening definition of the job of urban renewal, involving functions of departments not previously concerned with renewal as such.

The necessity of rationalizing these programs was recognized by this Honorable Body in 1957 with the passage of the Minimum Standards Housing Ordinance which provided a position of Housing Coordinator in the Executive Office. Subsequently, this title was amended to read Urban Renewal Coordinator, but, despite an implicit increase in responsibility, with no enhancement in the authority with which responsibility should be accompanied.

Very shortly we shall have available from the Community Renewal Program Study for our consideration, a proposed reorganization of the urban renewal function. I consider effective organization in this, or whatever final form it may take, to be essential in the complex task of planning renewal activities, assuring the most constructive use

of renewal funds, and implementing therefore, in a manner presently impossible, the basic objectives noted earlier for improving Providence as an attractive community, and for expanding, within practical possibilities, increasing opportunity for employment and investment.

Basically, the proposal will involve a separation of certain of the functions of municipal housekeeping from the functions of urban rebuilding and the establishment of the latter upon a more coordinated basis. I am confident this can result in more rapid progress than would otherwise be possible, a more complete and effective use of diverse federal aids and a more useful and socially conscious service to our citizens. I trust that you will give it your early and earnest attention.

Gentelmen, I have attempted in this brief presentation to sum up our current situation, to analyze our difficulties, and to present a progressive approach both to resolve such difficulties and to achieve a positive advancement of the tasks of government and the welfare of our city. I look forward to the counsel and cooperation of this Honorable Body with which I share the challenge that lies ahead. With your assistance and with the help of Almighty God, we shall make that extra effort and those difficult decisions to be required of us.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JAN 7 1963

Walter H. Reynolds
Mayor of Providence

READ

R. Everett Wheeland
CLERK