

City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

CHAPTER 1992-16

No. 151 AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1991-23

AS APPROVED JULY 24, 1991, ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO MILLION, TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$262,216,864.00) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1992" RELATIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION AND STANDARDS AS AMENDED.

Approved April 13, 1992

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1991-23 of the Ordinances of the City of Providence, as approved July 24, 1991, is hereby amended as follows:

	ORIGINAL	EXPENDITURES Increase (Decrease)	REVISED
BUILDING INSPECTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	\$243,100.00	\$15,000.00	\$258,100.00
MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT SALARIES	\$118,045.00	(\$15,000.00)	\$103,045.00

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its Passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 19 1992

FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

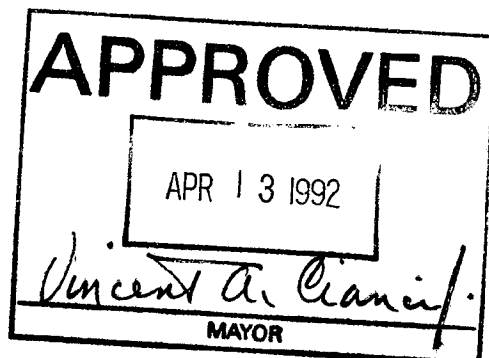
Michael R. Clement CLERK

IN CITY
COUNCIL

APR 2 1992

FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

Philip V. Fargnoli
ACTING PRESIDENT
Michael R. Clement
CLERK



No.

CHAPTER

AN ORDINANCE

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
FEB 10 1992

**Approves Passage of
The Within Ordinance**

Michael R. Clement
Chairman
Clerk

12/09/91

AN ORDINANCE In Amendment of Chapter 1991-23, as approved July 24, 1991 entitled: "An Ordinance Making an Appropriation of Two Hundred Sixty Two Million , Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Four Dollars ~~For~~ The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1992 as Amended. (262, 216.864.00)

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

Section 1: Chapter 1991-23 of the Ordinances of the City of Providence, as approved July 24, 1991, is hereby amended as follows:

	REVENUES		
	Original	Increase	Revised
General			
Departments	\$12,479,352	26,000	\$12,505,352

delete

	EXPENDITURES		
	Original	Increase	Revised
MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT		Decrease	
Building Inspection			
Administration			
Services	\$243,100	26,000	\$269,100
Public Safety	118,045	15,000	258,100
Police		25,000	103,045

Section 2: This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

THE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

Recommends

Be Continued

Michael R. Clement

Clerk

Nov. 16, 1991

MERLIN A. DeCONTI, JR., P.E.
Director



VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor

Department of Inspection and Standards

"Building Pride In Providence"

November 14, 1991

Steve Warner
Internal Auditor
City Hall

Dear Steve:

1991-23 Genl Rpts
+26 to 12,505,352
BI '11' +26 to 269,100

This is a follow up to our recent conversation with regard to allocation of funds in the 1991-1992 budget designated for the payment of constable fees. Item 101-5-00401-1990 within the Department budget has a budgeted amount of \$20,000.00 of which \$13,000.00 is allocated for the service of Providence Housing Court complaints, summons, and citations by constables. The \$13,000.00 figure was based upon a cost of \$8.00 per service charged by the Providence County Sheriffs.

On June 17, 1991, I wrote a letter to Alex Prignano (copy enclosed) requesting an increase in item 1990, because the Providence County Sheriff Department had increased their fees to \$45.00 per service. At that time, I was not sure what the City would have to pay for service, but estimated a cost of between \$20.00 and \$25.00. Since then, I have obtain the service of two constables who charge \$20.00 for services within Providence County and \$29.00 for service outside Providence County. Last year, the Department served fifteen hundred and fifty (1550) complaints and summons within Providence County and a hundred and fifty (150) outside. At this rate, we will spend \$35,350.00 for service; or approximately \$23,350.00 more than is allocated. It was my understanding that the Finance Committee was going to amend the Department budget by including \$26,000 in additional funds for service of warrants in item 1990, to bring the total amount of this item to \$46,000.00. To date, the Finance Committee has not increased this item, but it is my understanding that they intend to do so.

I am writing this letter to request that this correction be completed as soon as possible so that there will be no problem paying for constable services in the upcoming months.

If there are any problems with increasing this item, I would appreciate being given an opportunity to speak before the Finance Committee so that I may explain the position of the Department.

Very truly yours,

Merlin A. DeConti, Jr.
Director

MAD, JR/bc



Department of Inspection and Standards

"Building Pride In Providence"

June 17, 1991

Mr. Alex Prignano,
Deputy Finance Director
City Hall

Dear Alex:

On Thursday, June 13, 1991, the department was informed by the Providence County Sheriff Department that the fees charged by the sheriffs for serving complaints and summonses have been raised from \$8 per service to \$45 per service. The charge for failure to serve a defendant was raised from \$1 to \$5. Obviously this has a dramatic impact on the budget of the Department of Inspection and Standards. Approximately \$13,000 has been budgeted in Item 1990 for the service of complaints, summonses and citations. At the present time, the department serves between 1600-1700 complaints, summonses and citations each year. Obviously a six-fold increase would result in an expenditure of more than \$70,000, instead of \$13,000, amounting to a \$57,000 increase.

At the present time, I am investigating alternatives to the present system. My options are as follows:

1. Request the court's permission to serve all citations and summonses by certified mail. This will save money on services but make it very easy for a defendant to fail to appear, since there is no obligation to pick up certified mail. It may also overburden the present secretarial staff and require hiring a new secretary at \$18,000 per year.
2. Begin filing criminal cases instead of civil cases in the court. In this procedure only one warrant is issued and it is served by the Providence Police Department. This option requires the Housing Court to develop rules and regulations for criminal process and will require a complete retraining of the prosecution staff and all new forms for service of notice. This option cannot be implemented quickly and is difficult to assess in terms of cost.
3. Hire private constables to serve complaints and summonses in Providence County. Of the 1700 or so services, approximately 1550 are in Providence County. At the present time, constables charge \$20 to \$25 per service. I am sure they will raise their rates to match the new State charges; however, if the City guarantees 1500 services they may hold their rates at the \$20 to \$25 level for us. Estimated additional cost \$26,000.

June 17, 1991

4. The City Solicitor has informed me that the City Sargeant has the authority to serve complaints and summonses. He is investigating the possibility of having the City Sargeant serve all complaints and summonses within the City limits. It is estimated that approximately 1000 complaints and summonses are issued within City limits each year. If the City Sargeant can handle this task, it would be a significant savings requiring only 700 complaints and summonses to be served by private constables at a reduced cost of \$12,600.

5. Hire a City employee and empower that individual to serve summonses State-wide, if possible. Estimated cost \$25,000.

All of these options will require some additional expenditures. My best estimate at this time is between \$18,000 to \$26,000. Please request the Finance Committee to increase Item 1990 to reflect this cost. In the next day or so, I will be requesting the Purchasing Department to obtain emergency bids for the service of complaints and summonses by private constables. I will be able to give you a better idea of their prices after I receive their bids.

Very truly yours,



Merling A. DeConti, Jr.
Director

MAD,JR:np

MICHAEL R. CLEMENT
CITY CLERK

Clerk of Council



Department of City Clerk
City Hall

December 17, 1991

Honorable Chief Justice
Susan E. Mc Guirl
Providence Housing Court
204 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge Mc Guirl:

I have been requested by Councilman David G. Dillon, Chairman of the Committee on Finance to request your presence at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on Monday, December 23, 1991 at 5:00 P.M. in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Committee Room A.

The said meeting will be concerning the proposed Ordinance relative to Revenues and Expenditures, Building Inspection Administration Services.

It is requested that you review the enclosed in order that you may be able to address the proposed Ordinance.

If you have any questions on the subject matter, please do not hesitate to call me. I can be reached at 421-7740 extension 248.

Very truly yours,

Michael R. Clement
Michael R. Clement
City Clerk

MRC:sap

Enclosure

12/09/91

AN ORDINANCE In Amendment of Chapter 1991-23, as approved July 24, 1991 entitled: "An Ordinance Making an Appropriation of Two Hundred Sixty Two Million . Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Four Dollars For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1992 as Amended.

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