

Report of the Community Safety Act Working Group
May 25th, 2017

One month ago, the Providence City Council approved a resolution establishing the Community Safety Act Working Group, a committee of 11 dedicated stakeholders charged with identifying concerns within the proposed ordinance, known as the Community Safety Act, and to develop recommendations for alleviating those concerns before June 1st. Over the course of the past month, our working group met regularly, engaged in thorough discussion of the provisions of the proposed ordinance, and developed a number of recommended amendments clarifying the legislation and addressing the identified concerns.

This Working Group sought to find consensus on each proposed change to the ordinance. From the first meeting onward, Working Group members were careful not to alter the purpose or intent of the ordinance, instead focusing on improving and clarifying the language in the legislation. Each recommended amendment of the legislation was approved unanimously by the Working Group as a “friendly amendment,” i.e. a change found by all parties to be an improvement to the original language.

All of the recommended amendments are presented in the attached, red-lined, version of the ordinance. Recommendations include greater clarification of definitions used in the ordinance, improved language that eliminates confusion about intent, language changes that ensure consistency between provisions and between the ordinance and State law, and lastly, renaming the ordinance to better demonstrate its intent.

Through this collaborative, open, and consensus-building process, we have identified and resolved previously-raised concerns about the legislation. We are satisfied with the attached changes and strongly urge the members of the City Council to approve the ordinance with the recommended amendments.

Councilman Bryan Principe, Chairman
Councilman Terrence Hassett, Vice Chairman
Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris
Commissioner Steven Pare
Chief Hugh Clements
Sgt. Robert Boehm
Justice Gaines
Courtney Hawkins
Linda Heng
Kathryn Sabatini
Martha Yager