

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

Approved

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Education has invited applications for current public schools to convert to “in-district” charter schools, and

WHEREAS, Some Providence Public Schools have declared an interest in applying for this conversion; and

WHEREAS, Providence currently supports the development of neighborhood schools through, among other things, a student assignment plan that reserves up to 80% of an elementary school’s kindergarten seats, a middle school’s sixth grade seats and a high school’s ninth grade seats for children living in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council has stated on previous occasions its strong support for neighborhood schools, which contribute greatly to a sense of community within the school, serve as a supporting pillar for the neighborhood in which the school is located, and strengthen ties between the school and the families and citizens who live nearby; and

WHEREAS, There is a question at this time as to whether a Providence public school that converts to “in-district charter” status can retain its identity as a neighborhood school as defined by the current student assignment plan or a substantially equivalent alternative; and

WHEREAS, there are alternative ways for Providence public schools to obtain the benefits of independence and flexibility without becoming “in-district” charter schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council hereby urges the Providence School Department to obtain prompt clarification concerning the ability for an “in-district” charter school to retain its neighborhood character as defined by the School Department’s current student assignment plan or its substantial equivalent, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is the sentiment of the Providence City Council to oppose vigorously the conversion of the City’s public schools to “in-district” charter schools unless and until those schools can retain their neighborhood identity following the conversion.