

John J. Igliazzi
Council President
Councilman - Ward 7



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September 8, 2021

The Honorable Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor
City of Providence
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mayor Elorza:

We are writing to you regarding the recent appointment of a Community Relations and Diversion Services Major within the Providence Police Department.

The City Council strongly supported the creation of this new position, and included funding for it in the FY 2022 budget. The position was presented to the Council as a means to build bridges between our police force and community, while simultaneously creating a promotional opportunity for a minority officer to move up the ranks in the police department.

Your appointment last week of Director of Parks and Recreation, Michael Stephens, to the Police Major position means that the position will be filled by an individual who has a record of service to the community, but no law enforcement experience. Therefore, the scope and construct of this this key position must be modified to clarify the authority, duties and responsibilities of this new role.

We urge you to work with the City Council to amend the title—for example, to “Public Safety Community-Police Liaison”—and clarify the parameters of the job. Additionally, we will create a new Police Major position to provide a much-needed opportunity for a minority police officer to rise in the department’s ranks. To that end, we will be resubmitting the classification and compensation ordinances to evaluate the appropriate adjustments.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

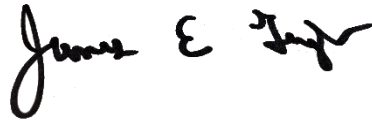
John J. Igliazzi
Council President

Cc: Commissioner Steven Pare
Colonel Hugh Clements
Providence City Council

Additional Signatures Below



Pedro J. Espinal
Council President Pro Tempore



James Taylor
Majority Leader



Nicholas J. Narducci, Jr.
Senior Deputy Majority Leader



Mary Kay Harris
Deputy Majority Leader



Carmen Castillo
Majority Whip



Michael J. Correia
Councilman-Ward 6



John Goncalves
Councilman-Ward 1



Jo-Ann Ryan
Councilwoman-Ward 5



David A. Salvatore
Councilor-Ward 14



Oscar Vargas
Councilman-Ward 15