



City of East Providence
Office of the Mayor
Roberto L. DaSilva
Mayor

June 12, 2020

Mrs. Samantha Burnett
East Providence City Clerk
145 Taunton Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914

Re: Veto

Dear Madam Clerk,

Attached please find the ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island, 1998, as amended entitled Administration, as passed by the City Council on June 2, 2020, which I am returning to you having exercised my mayoral veto.

As required by the City Charter, I am enclosing my Message of Disapproval.

Prior to my submission, I have conferred with various members of the City Council.

Sincerely,


Roberto L. DaSilva, Mayor

CC: East Providence City Council

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

2020 JUN 12 PM 12:29

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City of East Providence
Office of the Mayor
Roberto L. DaSilva
Mayor

MESSAGE OF DISAPPROVAL

Pursuant to Article III, section 3-6 (2) of the East Providence Home Rule Charter, I reluctantly Veto the City Council Ordinance transmitted to me on June 3, 2020 adding various provisions related to the presentation and submission of the city budget by the Mayor to City Council and the formation of a Financial Review Committee.

Under the current Home Rule Charter, the Mayor is required to submit a budget at least 45 days prior to the beginning of each budget year. (Article V, section 5-3.) The East Providence fiscal year begins November 1. Therefore, the budget must be submitted to the Council no later than September 17. The proposed ordinance would require that the budget be submitted no later than 70 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year which is August 23 this calendar year. Passage of this ordinance would require the submission of a City budget 25 days earlier than set forth in the Charter.

The rationale for this ordinance is to provide the City Council more time to consider and analyze the proposed budget. While I believe that goal is laudable during ordinary times, since March 9, 2020 the State of Rhode Island and the City has been under a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This state of emergency has curtailed social and business activity, and has caused a strain on the state and municipal coffers.

In fact, I have recently been informed by the Governor's office that the state budget may not be approved until August of this year while the state awaits the status of a potential fourth federal stimulus package that may provide relief for economic losses suffered by the states and municipalities. These delays in passing a state budget will necessarily effect how the City budget is formulated. It is important that the administration have a complete fiscal picture as possible in crafting a spending plan to ensure that our local and educational budget is based on real numbers to avoid unnecessary cuts in services or increases in taxes needed to provide municipal services.

Against this backdrop, requiring the submission of a budget 25 days earlier will not help the Administration nor the City Council review or craft a realistic budget since neither branch of government would have accurate information on which to base their decisions. In more normal times when a state budget is passed before the beginning of the state fiscal year of July 1, this ordinance would meet its intended purpose. However, in these extraordinary times, passage would frustrate its intent and force the submission and review of a spending plan that would not be based on concrete revenues and state aid.

Furthermore, there is nothing in this ordinance which would allow the Mayor to seek relief from these submission deadlines in emergencies like the one that the State and City are currently under. The inclusion

of such an extension mechanism would strengthen the ordinance and make it more acceptable from an administrative perspective.

Finally, the establishment of a Financial Review Committee is a positive and welcome step in ensuring the free flow of budget information and oversight by the city's legislative branch. I am committed to working with the Council on such an endeavor. Unfortunately, the City Charter does not grant the Mayor the ability to exercise a partial line-item veto, and I am therefore left with no legal choice but to veto this council passed measure in its entirety.

I would request that the City Council uphold the exercise of my veto and reconsider its initial passage in light of the concerns that I have raised.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Robert DaSilva

Date: June 12, 2020

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI
CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

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City of East Providence

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

145 TAUNTON AVENUE

EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02914-4505

TEL (401) 435-7596 FAX (401) 435-7501 TDD (401) 431-1633

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EAST PROVIDENCE, RI
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

ORDINANCE TRANSMITTAL

East Providence Charter, Section 3-6: Passage of Ordinances Over Veto

Submitted to the Mayor on:

Time: 2:22 pm

Signature of City Clerk: Leah Stoddard deputy city clerk

Recipient of Transmittal: Mark J

Signature of Recipient: _____

Ordinances:

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, 1998, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED, "ADMINISTRATION"

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, 1998, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED, "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" (SECTION 18-307)

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, 1998, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" (SECTION 18-308)

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 12 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, 1998, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED, ENTITLED "POLICE"

SUBMITTED TO THE CITY CLERK ON: 6/12/2020 - jma

By: [Signature]
Recipient of Transmittal