

## SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL

-NOVEMBER 10, 2005-

A Special meeting of the Cranston City Council was held on THURSDAY, November 10, 2005 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Council President Garabedian. Roll Call showed the following members present: Councilman Pisaturo, Council Member Fogarty, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Lanni, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian –7.

Absent: Councilmen Fung and Livingston -2.

Also Present: Paul Grimes Director of Administration; Michael Glucksman, City Solicitor; Mike Igoe, City Controller; Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor.

-NOVEMBER 10, 2005-

The City Clerk read the following:

**CITY OF CRANSTON  
RHODE ISLAND**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

In Accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Section 3.07 thereof, I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council to be held on **Thursday, November 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.**, Council Chambers, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, Cranston, RI at which meeting the following items of business shall be transacted:

- **Resolution Directing the Mayor to Make Recommendation to the Cranston City Council Concerning Appropriation of Funds Received by the City from the State of Rhode Island After the Enactment of the 2006 Appropriation Ordinance.**
- **Resolution Reflecting the Position of the City Council to Decline to Take Possession of the Roger Williams Park Mausoleum, Pursuant to RIGL 45-5-12**
- **Election of City Officers – Juvenile Hearing Board**
- **A joint meeting with the Cranston School Committee pursuant to the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Chapter 16-2-21.2 (d), to review revenue and expenditure projections and to discuss issues affecting the preparation of the school budget , as required by the Omnibus Property Tax Relief and Replacement Act of 1985.**
- **Introduction of New Business**

I hereby request the City Clerk to notify all Council members of the Call of the special meeting.

Executed at Cranston, Rhode Island, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2005.

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/s/ Aram G. Garabedian, Council President

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing-impaired must notify the Office of the City Clerk at 461-1000 Ext. 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.”

-NOVEMBER 10, 2005-

### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a true copy of the attached Call of a special meeting of the City Council to be held on Thursday, November 10, 2005 at 7 P.M. in the Council Chambers, third floor, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. was delivered via electronic mail on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2005 and regular mail, postage prepaid to the addresses listed below.

Council President Aram G. Garabedian  
173 Belvedere Dr.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[Aram@blissproperties.net](mailto:Aram@blissproperties.net)

Council Member Maria A. Bucci  
50 Lee St.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[MarBC4@aol.com](mailto:MarBC4@aol.com)

Council Member Cynthia M. Fogarty  
60 Ausdale Rd.  
Cranston, RI 02910  
[Fogarty1@msn.com](mailto:Fogarty1@msn.com)

Councilman Allan W. Fung  
252F Mayfield Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[alfung@cox.net](mailto:alfung@cox.net)

Councilman Terence Livingston  
28 Tucker Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02905  
[Terry@livingstonlaw.us](mailto:Terry@livingstonlaw.us)

Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone  
16 Samuel Court  
Cranston, RI  
[Jeffreyb22@cox.net](mailto:Jeffreyb22@cox.net)

Councilwoman Paula McFarland  
100 Pomham St.  
Cranston, RI 02910  
[pmcfarland@prodigy.net](mailto:pmcfarland@prodigy.net)

Councilman Michael S. Pisaturo  
506 Laurel Hill Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[michaelpisaturo@cox.net](mailto:michaelpisaturo@cox.net)

Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.  
111 Woodview Dr.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[jlanni@peterpanbus.com](mailto:jlanni@peterpanbus.com)

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/s/ Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk

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Public Speakers:

**Christine DeMarco** appeared to speak regarding “Resolution Reflecting the Position of the City Council to Decline to Take Possession of the Roger Williams Park Mausoleum, Pursuant to RIGL 45-5-12” and stated that she lives on the grounds of the Mausoleum. She is not suggesting that the Mausoleum become a taxpayer’s burden. She believes there is a historic value to the Mausoleum. The Mausoleum is deteriorating right on her front stairs. She was hoping to be an advocate and fundraiser for the Mausoleum with the guidance of the City. The Mausoleum is something to be preserved rather than to be demolished. Council Vice-President McFarland asked Ms. DeMarco if she has had any contact with any family members of the people who are interred in the Mausoleum. Ms. DeMarco stated that a handful of people showed up at a hearing and she met them at that time, but the majority of those people are elderly. She is not looking for the City to take this over, she is looking for a larger support group she can work out of and guidance from the City.

**Christopher Mulhearn, Esq.**, appeared to represent Mr. Ferrucci, duly appointed by Superior Court as Receiver of the Mausoleum. The reason for the receivership was due to the fact that the Mausoleum had fallen into complete disrepair and upkeep of the facility. This facility is a public safety nightmare. As a result of three inspections done in 2003 and 2004, it is not safe for family members to visit the Mausoleum. The receivership has no assets at all to repair this facility. He asked that the Council hold this matter in abeyance until this has an opportunity, since this is going back to Court at the end of this month for guidance from Superior Court. Council Member Fogarty asked what other approaches have been made through the State or other cities and towns or organizations. Attorney Mulhearn stated that they have contacted some organizations, such as RI Historical Preservation Society, which unfortunately, this facility does not qualify for a lot of historical assistance or grants. Councilman Lanni stated that the City of Cranston is not a charitable organization and asked what the cost would be for renovating this facility. Attorney Mulhearn stated that his understanding and the receiver’s understanding is it could cost a million dollars just in the disinterment issue and not getting into the structure renovation issue. It could amount to millions of dollars. Council President Garabedian stated that he has visited the site and the people interred in this Mausoleum are from all over the State. Council President Garabedian stated that though he is sympathetic, this is a Statewide issue and moving could cost millions of dollars as well as the liability involved. It would be an undue and unfair burden to expect the taxpayers of the City of Cranston to assume responsibility for this facility. This is a statewide issue and a health safety issue. This was a for-profit enterprise that went bankrupt.

-NOVEMBER 10, 2005-

**“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE CITY FROM THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE 2006 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE”**

On motion by Councilman Pisaturo, seconded by Council Member Bucci, it was voted to approve this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Barone asked for Solicitor’s opinion regarding this Resolution, since the Ordinance that was vetoed on October 24, 2005 by the Mayor has not been overridden yet by the Council. Council President Garabedian stated that this Resolution has nothing to do with that Ordinance. Council Member Fogarty stated that this Resolution deals with entirely different funds than the funds the Council was looking at in the Ordinance. This is separate and apart from the Ordinance. Councilman Lanni stated that this is not a partisan issue, this is a financial decision-making issue. Mr. Woerner stated that on June 27, 2005, the City received an update from the State through RI League of Cities and Towns of \$3.4 million in revenues for Cranston, payment in lieu of taxes of \$566,000 higher, General Revenue Sharing of \$2.1 million higher, Motor Vehicle Abatement of \$702,000 higher and Education Aid of \$990,000; net amount that we have not appropriated is \$2.7 million.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve this Resolution and motion passed on a vote of 6-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilman Pisaturo, Council Member Fogarty, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Lanni, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -6. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Barone -1.

**“RESOLUTION REFLECTING THE POSITION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO DECLINE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE ROGER WILLIAMS PARK MAUSOLEUM, PURSUANT TO RIGL 45-5-12”**

On motion by Councilman Pisaturo, seconded by Council Vice-President McFarland, it was voted to approve this Resolution. Motion passed on a vote of 5-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Pisaturo, Lanni, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Members Fogarty and Bucci -2.

**“ELECTION OF CITY OFFICERS – JUVENILE HEARING BOARD”**

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Council Member Fogarty, it was voted to appoint NEIL AMPER as a member of the *Juvenile Hearing Board*. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting “ay”: Councilman Pisaturo, Council Member Fogarty, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Lanni, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -7.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Council Member Bucci, it was voted to appoint LORI-ANN MARTIN as an Alternate member of the *Juvenile Hearing Board*. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting “ay”: Councilman Pisaturo, Council Member Fogarty, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Lanni, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -7.

-NOVEMBER 10, 2005-

**“JOINT MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PURSUANT RIGL 16-2-21.2(d) TO REVIEW REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS AND TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING THE PREPARATION OF THE SCHOOL BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY THE OMNIBUS PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND REPLACEMENT ACT OF 1985”**

Council President Garabedian asked Acting Chair of the School Committee, Anthony Lupino, to take roll call of School Committee members. The following School Committee Members were present: Steve Stycos, Deborah Greifer, Michael Traficante, Paul Archetto, Andrea Iannazzi and Anthony Lupino. Also present to represent the School Department Administration were: Richard Scherza, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph Balducci, Executive Director of Business Management and Operations; Raymond Votto, Executive Director of Human Resources.

Mr. Balducci appeared to make a presentation and presented a handout. He stated that this year, pension will be 9.72%. If pension reform had not been passed by the General Assembly, he would have had to pay 11.8%.

Councilman Pisaturo asked why State Aid is level funded. Mr. Balducci stated that he is uncomfortable raising it. He usually waits for the Governor to present his budget, which includes State Aid, and then he adjusts the revenue figures.

Council Vice-President McFarland questioned the increase in Adult Education and Summer School line items. Mr. Balducci stated that in Adult Education, they are trying to expand this program and he is confident that this will be increased. Mr. Scherza stated that one of the goals initiated last year was to make Adult Education to Alternate Education and trying to make this program self-sufficient. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that we are continually duplicating what is available on a State level, such as Network RI, which is federally funded. Mr. Scherza noted that they are continuously collaborating with Network RI. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that if this is the case, you need to show that.

Councilman Pisaturo left the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Mr. Lupino stated that there are three proponents of the Omnibus Act: 1) School Committee meets with the Council, 2) Council meets with the School Committee, and 3) the State is supposed to supply us with figures. He stated that this is his seventh Omnibus meeting and he has never seen the State present. Mr. Igoe appeared to speak and presented a handout and stated that he spoke to Peder Schafer from the State Budget Office and that office reviews State's budget projections for the next three years and this is how they determine the City's portion of State Aid.

Councilman Barone asked what the cost is of students attending Cranston schools from outside the City. Mr. Scherza stated that he does not have an accurate amount, but he assumes it is approximately 100 students. The School Department has found that a good number of students do actually live in the City. If they are not provided bus transportation through the City, they have to take the public bus and go to Kennedy Plaza and take the bus to Park Ave. to attend Cranston High School East. The School Department has initiated a signed resident Affidavit, which has had an effect. A new computer software has been instituted and they are making a lot of headway.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Maria Medeiros Wall  
City Clerk

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

(See Stenographic Notes of Meredith Mahoney, Stenotypist).