

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

MARCH 27, 1986

A Public Hearing is conducted by the Committee on Ordinances on this day at 7:00 o'clock P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councilman Thomas M. Glavin, Chairman, Councilman Andrew J. Annaldo, and Councilwoman Carolyn F. Brassil.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Evelyn V. Fagnoli and Councilman Malcolm Farmer, III.

Michael R. Clement, Assistant Clerk.

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AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1982-11, EFFECTIVE MARCH 14, 1982, ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE APPORTIONING THE FIFTEEN WARDS IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 204 OF THE PROVIDENCE HOME RULE CHARTER OF 1980 AS APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD NOVEMBER 4, 1980, AS AMENDED."

Chairman Glavin calls Diane Cook of 78 Whitmarsh Street, Providence.

DIANE COOK (Opponent)

Ms. Cook wishes to know the purpose of this Ordinance, and Chairman Glavin responds that the Ordinance changes the boundary lines of the Ninth Ward and the Eleventh Ward.

Chairman Glavin continues that from the way he understands it, there was an imbalance in these Wards in the State campaign for the Representative and Senatorial Districts, and in order to establish more of a balance, these lines are being adjusted on a City basis.

Ms. Cook states that she would like to ask one of the sponsors of it their reasoning behind the proposal, to which Council President Easton responds that there are a number of reasons for this legislation. He is of the opinion that this Ordinance addresses all of those.

Ms. Cook wishes to address herself to Councilman Thomas O'Connor. She wishes to know whether he thinks this legislation is a result of the fact that Councilman O'Connor has not resided in his district for some time and wishes to reside in his district by continuing the line. She continues that this action is incredibly arrogant to propose, in the first place, and arrogant of those who passed it. A Councilman is elected to serve the people and not "jerk them around" to serve himself.

Ms. Cook states that if Councilman O'Connor wishes to serve the people so badly, she suggests he move back to his district.

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Chairman Glavin then calls Mr. Ronald Crosson of 189-191 Dudley Street, Providence.

RONALD CROSSON (Opponent)

Mr. Crosson states he comes here tonight as a resident of the South Providence community, the Eleventh Ward, coming here as a Member of the Eleventh Ward Democratic City Committee.

Mr. Crosson further states that he overwhelmingly opposes the action that is the subject of this meeting. It is his contention that Mr. O'Connor has not lived at the address of Dudley Street to which he claims. Mr. Crosson lives three doors up the street from where he formerly lived on Dudley Street, has been there for 21 years and knows Mr. O'Connor a number of years.

He states that he has been in and out of that address for 365 days of all those years, and he states that he can say that, day or night, he has not seen him at that Dudley Street address. He states he can stand and attest to that.

Chairman Glavin interrupts Mr. Crosson, stating that the purpose of this Hearing is not to discuss where Councilman O'Connor lives, but to discuss the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Crosson states that it is his feeling this proposal is designed merely to accommodate the Councilman at his new address on Congress Avenue. Mr. Crosson is of the opinion that it is unfair to split up the Eleventh Ward to allow this kind of action to take place.

Mr. Crosson is of the opinion that this would be a total disservice to the constituents of the Eleventh Ward, the Ninth Ward, and the City as a whole.

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Chairman Glavin calls Chester George, 162 Prairie Avenue, Providence.

CHESTER "BUDDY" GEORGE (Opponent)

Mr. George states that Section 204 of the Providence Home Rule Charter provides that the City Council establish Ward boundaries according to the United States Census, and not voting purposes. He continues that in 1981, the Committee on Ward Boundaries and the City Council established Ward boundaries in accordance with the 1980 Census data. The population of our City at that time was 155,000, making the average population in each Ward approximately 10,333.

He wishes to know what has changed that information, necessitating the changes in the Ward boundaries of the Ninth and Eleventh Wards. It is his opinion that Councilman O'Connor of Ward 11 has moved to Ward 9.

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Mr. George considers this playing games on the people of the Eleventh Ward. He states that if it is necessary to take the Council to court, they will do that.

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Chairman Glavin then calls Raymond Young of 30 Nebraska Street.

RAY YOUNG (Opponent)

(Mr. Young's testimony is inaudible).

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Chairman Glavin calls for anybody else wishing to be heard, and there is nobody. He thanks all those present for their participation and announces that this concludes this Public Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT: This Public Hearing is adjourned at 7:35 o'clock P.M.


ASSISTANT CLERK