

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

MAY 1, 2003

The Committee on Finance meets this day at 5:30 o'clock P.M., in the Committee Room, Department of City Clerk, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman Kevin Jackson, Vice-Chairman Joseph DeLuca, Councilman Peter S. Mancini, Councilman Ronald W. Allen, Councilman Luis A. Aponte-5.

ABSENT: Vice-Chairwoman Romano-1.

ALSO PRESENT: Councilman Hassett, Councilman Butler, Councilwoman DiRuzzo, Councilman Igliazzi, James Lombardi, Internal Auditor, Joseph Fernandez, City Solicitor, Councilman Allen, Thomas Palangio, Anna M. Stetson, Second Deputy City Clerk and Jennifer L. Emidy, Assistant City Clerk.

(Subsequently Vice-Chairwoman Romano Joins the meeting)

COMMUNICATION FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR DATED APRIL 10, 2003, INFORMING THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL THAT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302(B) AND 415 OF THE PROVIDENCE HOME RULE CHARTER OF 1980, AS AMENDED, HE IS THIS DAY APPOINTING DAVID SCHECTER OF 131 WOODBURY STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903, AS A MEMBER OF THE SALARY REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN JANUARY 2007, AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITS THE SAME FOR APPROVAL. (MR. SCHECTER WILL FILL AN EXISTING VACANCY ON THE COMMISSION)

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Mr. Schecter if you can join us, and the way this Finance Committee has always dealt with appointments is if you can give us a little bit of a background some of us may know you, some of may not and what you feel you bring to the Salary Review Commission.

MR. SCHECTER: I am a life long resident of Providence. I live on 131 Woodbury Street. I am a product of the Providence school system, Summit Avenue School, Nathan Bishop, Classical. I went to the University of Rhode Island and I have degree from Suffolk University. I have been practicing law for over thirty years. I initially started working being involved in receiverships, reconstruction of

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business, and the operation of business. I am familiar with salaries, business operations. Though my career is mostly litigation a substantial part of my practice that deals with small business. I have a general counsel to a Corporation called File Media which is the largest general advertising firm in the country. Just in my general corporate practice I am called on by my business clients to discuss business practices protocols, budget salaries, and my litigation brings to me those things everyday.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Questions from Committee Members?

COUNCILMAN APONTE: What does your practice consist of?

MR. SCHECTER: My practice right now is probably 60 percent litigation, and 40 percent representing small businesses.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: Do you represent governments or governmental agencies? Have you represented?

MR. SCHECTER: I have defended municipal bodies, I have sued municipal bodies. Other than receiving checks for defending I don't think I have ever received a check from a municipal body in my life.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: Do you have any other governmental experience that you think will be helpful if you were approved?

MR. SCHECTER: When the Mayor asked me to be on the committee I advised him it was my first on try in government service. Planning salaries for government employees is no different than planning salaries for any other business. The budget as we know from what the Mayor said today, we have budget constraints, you know what people can do, you know what people are being paid everywhere else.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: I beg to differ having worked in private sector and in government. It is vastly different, but I think trial by fire will sort of give you that experience. Maybe in your conversation with the Mayor what do you understand as the role of the Salary Review Committee to be?

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MR. SCHECTER: As I understand it, I have exactly what the statute says. Every so often ever a salary employee that comes under our commission has to come from a view for what they are being compensated for by the city and it is our job to look at that position and make a determination as to what a salary should be for that person using whatever data and common sense and knowledge and we have gained from the experience in the work force to make that determination.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Other questions?

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: No question. I just want to make a statement. I have know Mr. Schecter, Attorney Schecter for several years now and he is a very diligent and conscientious Attorney, he has a lot of patience obviously. I think he will be a good person for the Salary Review Commission and I endorse him.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Pleasure of the committee?

On motion of Councilman Mancini, Seconded by Councilman Luna it is voted to approve the foregoing Communication.

CHAIRMAN: All those in favor.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ROMANO: No.

Motion carries.

COMMUNICATION FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR DATED APRIL 10, 2003, INFORMING THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL THAT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302(B) AND 415 OF THE PROVIDENCE HOME RULE CHARTER OF 1980, AS AMENDED, HE IS THIS DAY RE-APPOINTING MICHAEL VAN LEESTEN OF 11 BELAIR AVENUE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02906, AS A MEMBER OF THE SALARY REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN JANUARY 2007, AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITS THE SAME FOR APPROVAL.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Mike if you can just again as we ask of every person that comes before us to give us a little bit of background and what you bring to the Salary Review Commission.

MR. VAN LEESTEN: I am old so, I went to Benefit Street Elementary School, Thomas Doyle, Nathan Bishop, Hope High School, Rhode Island College,

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University of Rhode Island, it has all been a public education track. I have done a lot of work in private and public sectors, and lot of human and civil rights back in the days. Fleet Bank worked for nineteen years, Rhode Island Home Mortgage Finance Corporation Chaired that for seven years. I was Executive Director for Planning & Development Corporation and have done a lot of organizational development work and management work for non-profit corporation. I can go on with a litany of other things, I served on the State Board of Regents served on that for seven or eight years.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Questions from Committee Members? Questions from Council Members?

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: I am here tonight as you know Michael is saying he is old, I must be pretty old too because I know most of these people that are before us lately in regard to appointments. I have known Mike for many years and he is certainly is no stranger to city government, he has truly been intimately involved in government in Providence, he knows the city, he knows the operation of the city and he is a true professional and I am very proud to see him here tonight. We were really sad when he left city government and I am glad to see he is reconnecting and I am supporting him whole heartedly.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Other questions, comments? I would just like to add that I have known Michael since I moved to the City of Providence back as a college student in 1976 and he has always been a mentor to me, and I am proud to say he is a constituent of mine and he is has encouraged me professionally and politically throughout my whole career and it is a pleasure to have my fellow across the table from me.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: I just wanted to share with Mr. Van Leesten that we had a pool going whether or not you were going to make it or not and I will not tell you who won, and I will not tell you who lost. One of the things that I can say about Michael and perhaps it hasn't been said yet is that if you really look up the

definition of Civic Leader in any dictionary the definition would be all that Michael Van Leesten has done in his many years of service to the city both within city government and outside. His many endeavors have left his finger prints etched in the civic factor of our city and it is always an honor privilege to work with Michael Van Leesten and his endeavors.

COUNCILMAN MANCINI: I met Michael years ago when we had the OIC and we had youth programs that actually work because of people like Mike. If we had more of them today we would be in much better shape, and I would be happy to support Mike.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Pleasure of the Committee at this time?

On motion of Councilman Aponte, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Romano it is voted to approve the foregoing communication.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor.

Motion carries.

COMMUNICATION FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR DATED APRIL 10, 2003, INFORMING THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL THAT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302(B) AND 203 OF THE PROVIDENCE HOME RULE CHARTER OF 1980, AS AMENDED, HE IS THIS DAY APPOINTING LYDIA RIVERA OF 115 CASS STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02905, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON THE FIRST MONDAY IN MARCH 2009, AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITS THE SAME FOR APPROVAL. (MS. RIVERA WILL REPLACE MARK LOMAZZO WHOSE TERM HAS EXPIRED)

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Ms. Rivera just like everyone else can you tell us a little about your background and what you feel you bring to the Board of Canvassers.

MS. RIVERA: I am very nervous, I am not use to this. I have been in the City of Providence for thirty years, I am a mother, a grand-mother, and a great-grand-mother. I am a voter. I was the first Latino to be elected to the tenth ward city committee many years ago because I am as old as dirt. I am the founder of the Puerto Rican Action Committee, I served with the Liz Merancy as a lobbyist to

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change the laws. There was a law here where they used to discriminate against housing to people who had children. I did a fair housing video for the State Commission on Human Rights that I am very proud of because it is still used today. I can't remember everything I have done because they tell me I have done so much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI: Lydia make sure it is all good. They have told me I have done a lot too.

MS. RIVERA: That is the truth wherever I go people tell me that everything I do is so good. I help to build new cities. I help to build Oxford Place in Oxford Gardens. I can't remember everything I have done because it has been so much. I am one of those old Pace people. Do you remember Pace from back in the day. I have lived in the tenth ward all of these years and I am glad that we have a new day in the City of Providence. I wish to serve, I am a very good team player, I think we need to make some changes, we need to work very hard. This is only the beginning and I am sorry that I am nervous but don't let that fool you. I am tough and I am good at what I do and I love this city. Like I said I have been a voter, I have worked those polls. I have been a runner, a checker, I have worked as a Supervisor, and I have seen it all. I am very proud to live in the tenth ward where is have Councilman Aponte and I am now proud to say that my family and I were very instrumental in working to get Miguel Luna to where he is today also. I don't know what else to say.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Thank you. Questions from Committee Members? Questions from Council Members?

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: Hi. Yes, I think this position is an extremely important position to hold in the City of Providence. I need to know if you are as dedicated as you say you are because I don't really know you. The importance to you of cleaning up the voting rolls in the City of Providence where we can eliminate all the dead people who vote, all the people who send the cards in

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and say where they live and they don't live. Very little is happening in that regarding, I want to know what your position is on that?

MS. RIVERA: My position is that it is the only reason why I accepted this position, the house needs to be cleaned. I am too tired of seeing people that are dead voting over and over again. There is a lot of work to be done, I am a team player. I don't come in here trying to be a Diva, a Super Star, or tell you I know all the answers. I know we have a lot of problems, and I know we need a lot of clean up. I have a lot to do with voter registration because I am also part of the Puerto Rican Board of Collection Committee and next week we will be at the State House because we through Profa, which is the common law for Puerto Rico and Washington has given us the mandate and that mandate is that we have gotten our people who will be involved in registering real live people for the next couple of years to come out and vote. I agree with you, because I am a tax payer. I live in Washington Park. My children go to school, I have a fifteen year old daughter, I am raising two grandchildren, and I have a senior mom. I believe they have the right to be served. I think they can only be served if we have the proper people and the right place. If we do that and we can only do that if we clean up the city. I know I can do a good job. I know that, and if the Mayor didn't know that then he wouldn't have put my name up here. That is my answer.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Thank you. Other questions?

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: Yes Ms. Lydia, first are you the democratic appointment?

MS. RIVERA: Yes I am.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I just didn't know. You went through the process of the Democratic Committee submitting five names, and then took one name, and you are the name.

MS. RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCILMAN LUNA: I have known Lydia for many years and I want to tell you when she tells you she is tough, she is tough. She is a tough cookie, and it is really an honor to have you here. You are going to be a person like Councilwoman DiRuzzo has been saying to clean up the Board of Canvassers. As you are aware there were some dead people who voted in the last election from my ward, hopefully they will be notified to let them know they are dead and they are not supposed to be voting. We need people like yourself who are going to be really working with the community, all the different communities in cleaning up the voting list. Your position is so important because you hold what democracy is all about. In order to have a smooth election and to have an honest government we have to start right in the Board of Canvassers. I am looking forward to working with you.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: Ms. Rivera are you familiar with what your duties and responsibilities will be at the Board of Canvassers?

MS. RIVERA: Actually I haven't been told because I haven't been appointed and it would be presumptuous of me to say that someone sat down to tell me about a position that I haven't been appointed to. I know what should be done, I know that we have to go in there and we have to clean house. We have to take a good look and check into who is alive and who is not alive.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: If I may Mr. Chair, what I mean is the total responsibility is just not cleaning up the voter rack, are you familiar with all the other things?

MS. RIVERA: No I am not, but I am willing to learn, and wherever I go I am known to be someone who cleans house that is what I do.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: There is no question because everybody here knows that you can clean house but my concern is that we have to work with the Secretary of State and different municipalities for transferring records and things of that nature, absentee ballots, voter registration. I am just concerned.

MS. RIVERA: I believe I can do it Councilman.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: It is nice that the Mayor made an appointment, but I wouldn't apply for a job that I didn't have any knowledge of what that job does besides voter registration. I would be concerned that....you seem like the woman that you can take on whatever you are given but I want to make sure that you know the responsibilities.

MS. RIVERA: I know the responsibilities and if I didn't know them I wouldn't be sitting here. I do know, but I can learn very quickly. I was put on the Nominating Committee for the School Board and I was asked to be there. Believe me I learned very quickly and we did a good job.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: I am not going to debate the School Board appointments because to be honest with you I think the Nominating Commission didn't do a good job. I think it is my responsibility as a Council person to make sure that you know what you are getting into.

MS. RIVERA: I do know. I am up for the challenge.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ROMANO: Lydia you will be replacing a former constituent of mine who has been there for twenty years Mark Lomazzo. Mark did a wonderful job there, so I just hope that you can follow in his foot steps. I will approve your appointment but Mark did a wonderful job and I am sure that you can take over where he left off.

MS. RIVERA: I hope I can. I am ready for the challenge and I know the people who work there. I have worked with them in the community. I worked with George Smith for many years in the community, I know Larry Flynn. There are some people here who may not know me. I gained weight and I am not a blond anymore. I fought cancer, I run the festival, I am the President of the Puerto Rican parade and festival of Rhode Island. I am a former rape victim. I have fought many things in my life and I will tell you I know I can do this job. I fought cancer for two years on that street and did a festival. I was bald, I was fat, but I got the job done. I

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know I can do this. If you give me an opportunity I can do it. If I am not doing it right then I think I need to be called in and I need to be chastised and I need to be told.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: I have known Lydia long enough I don't buy this crying stuff, I have been in her house when she was mad at me.

MS. RIVERA: I just got over strep throat so I am weak today. I am nervous today, because number one like I said I am raising a fifteen year old, I am raising two grandchildren, I have brought my mother home to live with me who has Alzheimer's, and she is tougher than this whole crew together. She is angry because I had to drop her at my other daughters. I was rushing over here, so trust me if I can take care of all those people I can do this.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: Like I said I have known Lydia, I have lived in the city almost twenty-five years and I think I have know Lydia almost all of that time. I know her and her husband, I know their family. If not for some change in historic circumstances Lydia would have been the first Latina elected to the City Council representing the tenth ward. She has been a mentor, and like I said I don't buy the crying stuff because when she is mad at me I hear it on the phone. She knows the city, she has been involved in many things she has not mentioned. She is probably one of the greatest people I know. Two years ago she battled cancer and she is here. Many of us prayed she would be with us and she is here today. She has taken on additional responsibilities and whenever I have called upon her or her husband to do things in the neighborhood they are always the first ones to show up and the last ones to leave. I can tell you today that your faith and confidence in the fact that she will do a good job will not be disappointing, she is a quick study and has always demonstrated to me that in the end she will always do the right thing. When I spoke to her very briefly about this appointment I asked her Lydia with all the things that you have going on are you sure this is something you want to do, and she said I can do this standing on my head and do everything else that I do, and

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I believe it. At the appropriate time Mr. Chairman I will be supporting her nomination and I think that she will do a fine job for the citizens of the city in taking on some of the challenges that will be coming forward at the Board of Canvassers. I can't think of a time when the Board of Canvassers where before this Committee where the Committee Members did not ask questions about cleaning up the rolls, making sure that the process function went more smoothly, making sure that polls opened on time, that the proper equipment and information was there. Lydia has done those things, there are few of those folks that have had to work a poll for fourteen hours and she has done that stuff and can appreciate the sacrifice people make to do those things. I think it was a good nomination by the Mayor.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Other questions or comments?

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: You mentioned numerous organizations, the outside which are very involved with election of candidates. Where you able to differentiate your role sense you are actually going to be now a member of actual voting mechanism, between the political aspect. Now you are going to be potentially stepping into a position of making sure the voting mechanism. You are going to be part of the whole process. Will you be able to handle the whole process?

MS. RIVERA: If we handle in house then we don't have to go through what I saw candidates like this gentlemen here go through and no you don't really know me but the point is I am not lead by the noise by anybody. If I give an endorsement, if I vote for someone, it is because I believe in that particular person. I don't even try to sway my husband. He can go work for one candidate and I go. What I am saying is I know what the job that I have to do here will be and that will take priority over everything else. I do believe there was a mandate not only here, but in the United States. We saw what happened in Washington, I mean in Florida if you recall. There is a mandate that needs to be changed I would like to very much be part of that because we are going to make history. We are going to make

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change and we do need to clean up and we do need to get things straighten out. Yes I do know exactly what my position would be as far as that goes. I may not know the exact intricacy of what it is and what it is and what I am going to be doing, but I do know I am going to dedicate all my time to this. It is extremely important. There are people that go to the polls and it is time when their voice needs to be heard. We have an obligation, I don't take this lightly. That is why I am so nervous. I don't take it lightly. Yes I am going to do a job. You guys are going to come back in a year and a go I didn't think she could do this, I am going to do it. I am not going to do it alone. It is a team, and we as a team will get it done. I hoped I answered your question.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: Can I just say one more thing Mr. Chair? You just said endorsing, and the people that I know that are currently working there they maybe a democrat, but if I decided to run against Miguel you step aside regardless if he is your friend.

MS. RIVERA: Exactly.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: I just wanted to make it clear.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Other questions or comments?

On motion of Councilman Aponte, seconded by Councilman Luna it is voted to approve the foregoing Communication.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor.

Motion Carries.

COMMUNICATION FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR DATED MARCH 25, 2003, INFORMING THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL THAT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302(B) AND 1102 OF THE PROVIDENCE HOME RULE CHARTER OF 1980, AS AMENDED, HE IS THIS DAY APPOINTING JOAN BADWAY OF 65 SHARON STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF LICENSES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN JANUARY 2006, AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITS THE SAME FOR APPROVAL. (MS. BADWAY WILL FILL THE EXPIRED TERM OF ALAN COSTANTINO)

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CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Ms. Badway if you could just like everyone has done tell us a little bit about your background. Though some of us may know you others may not and then what you feel you bring to the Board of Licenses.

MS. BADWAY: My name is Joan Badway I am currently a resident of the fifth ward. I was born in the thirteen ward. I have been a life long resident of the City of Providence. I have been politically involved when I lived in ward in thirteen as Councilman Lombardi can verify. My husband was ward Chairman of the thirteen ward. We later moved up to the fifth ward where I am currently a constituent of Councilman Butler. I serve on the Ward Committee, and have been involved in activities. My kids all attended Public Schools in the City of Providence. I served as the PTO President, PTO Vice-President at Robert Kennedy School, Nathanel Greene School. My children have graduated from Classical High School. We have been involved politically for a long time. I helped with Mr. Mayor Cicilline on his campaign and currently serve as Democratic City Chairwoman.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Questions from Committee Members?

COUNCILMAN APONTE: Nice to meet you. Tell me a little bit about what you believe your role is going to be on the Licensing Board?

MS. BADWAY: As a member of the Licensing Board you are suppose to review people who come before the Board to apply for a license, entertainment, liquor, and that is my understanding of what some of my duties will be.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: Do you know how many licenses the city currently, the Licensing Board currently?

MS. BADWAY: No I do not.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: Do you know how often those licenses come up?

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MS. BADWAY: I think every year they are renewed, as far as what type of license not being a Board Member I didn't get into it. I know they meet three times a week.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Other questions? Other Council Members?

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: Thank you. I just like to state for the record that I have known, I think Ms. Badway has known me since I have been in diapers. I have grown up with her children. She has been someone who has been great in the community, in the schools, and the neighborhood political campaigns, and things of that nature. I think she would be a great asset to the Board of Licenses from a perception of someone who is from the neighborhood who can...who knows the different things that happens in neighborhoods whether it is incidents of noise, crime, she can see that and understand the residents and the people in the community. I would ask that all five of my colleagues and the full Council to approve Ms. Badway.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI: Can we go off the record for a second because I am not going to say things that are too kind. You know what they say if you can't say anything good don't say anything at all. No in all seriousness, Joan Badway has been someone I have known for many years as I do her entire family and we have been adversaries at some point but I think we have become good friends. I think we have great respect and admiration for one and other. I think she would be an asset, obviously there is a learning curve and it is a little bit of a tough time down there. I am sure she will fit in well. I urge my colleagues to support her Mr. Chairman.

COUNCILMAN MANCINI: I have known Joan for a while also. Joan as you are aware there are tough times at the Licensing Board just to let you aware of that. I think if someone can come on that Board and really help in solving of the problems Joan Badway is that person. I thought we had a number of fifth ward

people on the Board and Commissions. I think Joan is going to be an excellent addition to that Board.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ROMANO: I would be remised if I didn't say that Joan has been a friend of mine for years and I think she would be a great asset to that Board, but I will be in front of you all the time Joan. I really believe you will truly be an asset to the Board and I will vote to approve your appointment.

MS. BADWAY: I am really humble by all your support. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I guess it is up to me to ask you questions besides testimony. I don't know you so I am going to since I am being asked to vote for you tonight. I would like to get a little more background. Can you tell me your education.

MS. BADWAY: I came from Providence Schools. I am a Catholic School product. I attended St. Mary's on Broadway.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: Are you or anyone related to you receive any licenses from this Board of Licenses at all.

MS. BADWAY: No.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI: May I just interject for one second, there may be. Isn't there a place on North Main Street you're related to?

MS. BADWAY: Oh the body shop.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI: I don't mean to step in.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: If an individual does come before you, you need to recuse yourself from all proceedings. The other thing is in your role you just became Chair of a City Democratic Party correct?

MS. BADWAY: Yes.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I presume they will be organizing and generating funds and maybe raising money.

MS. BADWAY: Trying to.

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COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: In that event it will be up to you who decides where the money goes to elect a candidate and or potential office holders. At that point is that going to be a separate operation of the parties?

MS. BADWAY: Oh yes.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: Mr. Chair, Councilman can I ask what this has to do with her appointment with the Board of Licenses?

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I am just flushing out to make sure there is no conflicts of interest.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: I think if there is any conflicts of interest Ms. Badway would surly step aside.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I commend Councilman Butler for that, but I have the right to inquire for Q and A. Thank you. You gave testimony earlier and I sat here quietly, I am asking questions.

COUNCILMAN BUTLER: I am asking the Chair that the questions pertain to the Board of Licenses please.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: Thank you Mr. Chair, I just want to make sure Ms. Badway considering what just happened in the Board of Licenses recently, the new Board of License inquire review that you are prepared if something comes you understand to recuse yourself. I don't know you. It seems to me at this point in time the Mayor has created a new over sight Board and I know that Board is going to be coming forward and evaluate the whole Board process and I just want you to be prepared that if something comes up please look to....City Solicitor who is the?

MS. BADWAY: Kevin McHugh.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: That you look to them to just to make sure that we don't have any other potential issues not because of you but anybody on the Board.

MS. BADWAY: I can appreciate that.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: It has been, numerous news paper articles came about it and now it is in court on that issue.

MS. BADWAY: It is trying times.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: That is all I ask. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

On motion of Councilman Luna, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Romano it is voted to approve the foregoing Communication.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor.

Motion carries.

COMMUNICATION FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR DATED MARCH 25, 2003, INFORMING THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL THAT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302(B) AND 1103 OF THE PROVIDENCE HOME RULE CHARTER OF 1980, AS AMENDED, HE IS THIS DAY RE-APPOINTING BISHOP ROBERT FARROW OF 157 OPHELIA STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02907, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN JANUARY 2006, AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITS THE SAME FOR APPROVAL.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Bishop though many of us may know you again same scenario a little bit about your background, and what you bring to the Human Relations Commission.

BISHOP FARROW: My name is Robert E. Farrow. I am a resident of the City of Providence. I live in the seventh ward, Councilman Igliazzi. I Pastor a church in the tenth ward of Councilman Luis Aponte. I was born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island and I was educated in Woonsocket Public School system. I was a student and educated at Johnson & Wales Junior College at the time, which is Johnson & Wales University today. I majored in Business Administration, went to Rhode Island College, majoring in Psychology and Education. I was educated in Memphis Tennessee, Theological Seminary for the Church of God of Christ. I was educated in New York City, Kelly Institute, Theological Seminary Church of God of New York City, also St. Paul Theological Institute where I achieved a Doctorate Degree of Divinity. I rose to the level of Bishop for the State of Rhode and worked

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very diligently in youth departments, finance departments, administrative departments, educational departments. I was electoral for the Board of Canvasser for George Smith. I was electoral for Johnson & Wales University. I served on the Governor Board for the Big Brothers of Rhode Island, and work for the mentoring programming for the Urban League of Rhode Island, also Providence Community Action. I presently serve on that Board. As past Board Member and Chairman of the Providence Human Relations Commission the NAACP, President of the Educational Department. I became the founder and the President of the Heavy Idela Foundation Literacy Outreach Program. I am a member of the Rhode Island Ministers Alliance, and also the President and be founder of the new Rhode Island Board of Bishops for the State of Rhode Island, and also a New England National Bishop for the Church's of God and Christ out of New Orleans, Louisiana. I can go on and on but I think you know me pretty well.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Thank you Bishop. Questions from Committee Members?

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: Mr. Chairman. I actually have the honor of getting to know, getting to know Bishop Farrow a few years ago. Something interesting happened I was listening to the radio and they were talking about as you know the shooting on Pine Street with the young Kids. They were talking about in the African American Community how difficult it is for there to be, in some parts of the African American Community for role models. They were talking about how one of the most powerful role models especially in the African American Community has been the Ministers. They were saying that when the flock of the ministry is involved they seem to maintain that sense of connection with community of what is right and what is wrong. Surprising enough they mentioned Bishop Farrow as one of those role models and I think it is appropriate that Bishop Farrow goes on for Human Relations Commission because not only is he a role model for the African American community I believe he is a role model for all the

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people of Providence. I think that is something that is pretty important. I think it is important when we have a relationship of government and religion I think there should be a relationship that shows a good positive connection in trying to good within the community as well with the school system. Bishop Farrow has a program and his mentor program has done a wondrous job, I know at Laurel Hill Avenue and numerous schools throughout the city. I just want to say for the committee I think once again this is a very important appointment. I think Bishop Farrow served the city well and I think we would be proud to re-appoint him.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Other questions, comments from Committee Members?

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: I think he is wonderful and he can go on any committee he wants as far as I am concerned. He is a wonderful human being. He has a very big connection with God and I want to be on his side. He does wondrous things. He is a very special person.

On motion of Councilman Aponte, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Romano it is voted to approve the foregoing communication.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor.

Motion carries.

RESOLUTION RETAINING R. KELLY SHERIDAN, ESQUIRE, AT A RATE OF \$130.00 PER HOUR WITH A CAP OF \$6,500.00, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROVIDENCE HOME RULE CHARTER OF 1980, AS AMENDED SECTION 401(D) FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ANY AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS, DOCUMENTS AND/OR TRANSMITTALS RELATIVE TO GTECH'S PROPOSAL.

COUNCILMAN APONTE: Mr. Chairman recently the state has both Houses of the Legislature and Governor have concluded their portions of memorandum of agreement that was signed not too long ago. Both Houses of the Legislature have passed the legislation to allow this field to go forward. I believe tomorrow the Governor will have the Ceremony signing of the legislation signing it into law. The Administration has under the leadership of Solicitor Fernandez and

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Carol Grant have begun discussion with GTECH. A Commission was formed with the Council to begin to have some initial discussion before the actual stabilization was received and then to review the documents there after. Our hope and belief was that we needed an extra set of eyes working on behalf of the Council to oversee the documents, someone who be part of the on going negotiations. Many of us know Kelly Sheridan, know his work, his reputation, his knowledge of city government, and his knowledge of city government, and his knowledge of the role that the City Council plays within City Government. It was thought that he would be an appropriate choice to help us through these negotiations. We have all read and understand how lucrative of a deal this would be for GTECH. We have the responsibility to ensure that it is an equally lucrative deal for the citizens of the City of Providence, and it is our hope that we can retain the services of Kelly Sheridan. That is how the matter came before the Finance Committee.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOMBARDI: Thank you Mr. I had the pleasure today of meeting with several representatives of GTECH and I indicated the importance of them keeping the Chairman of Finance, the Majority Leader, the Council person from that area, and Councilman Hassett, Councilman Igliazzi, the Internal Auditor on that Commission because it is a very important commission. Today after reading the article in the paper they had an epiphany and the epiphany that the Council that this thing does happen without the Council. I obviously let them know that this is a very important project for the City of Providence as well as the State of Rhode Island, but we were left out of the loop. They indicated that they realized in the last couple of days they have become very mindful of that and the importance in role of what this Council will play in this. I indicated that we had if somebody has something more I certainly stand corrected that we had the original memorandum of understanding at which point they indicated that it has been changed several times since then. I indicated how at least the Majority Leader, I don't know if any other Council Members were at the press conference

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and in fact some of us were not even able to get a copy of it until I spoke to the Solicitor who then faxed me a copy and then made a hard copy available which I sent to my colleagues. That is the extent of what at least I think the knowledge of this Council possesses and we are going to do what we need to do. I gave the example of the mall and the hours and hours of deliberations that took place in making that happen, and I said even today I had Andrea and I can't think of the last name of the individual who wrote the article who thought that we were going to pass this by tomorrow and I had to explain to her how there was a legal process that we had to go through that the Ordinance can not be prepared for example, how it had to come to the Council, a Council Member will have to submit. I don't know who that Council person. Council Members may say you know what we are not going to submit the Ordinance. It will have to go to this committee you do your persons work and they would have to kick it around and meet with the experts and working hand and hand with the commission that this Council took the lead in we are being proactive. We have been down this road before, and then how there would be a public hearing and there was a ten day notice requirement, required by law and the oracle of truth just has some trouble understanding how this process works. I said anybody who is making these representations is just not being truthful. Then going back to the Finance Committee after the public hearing, and kicking it around more and back to the Council for two passages. This isn't a sprint, this isn't a marathon. I gave the example of the mall, and I also said that the discouraging numbers as to what are the tax incentives for GTECH and I said I am going to be very honest with you, I am going to be very candid. It is anywhere from \$300 million dollars to \$1.5 billion dollars over a thirty year period at which point they indicated that they are not looking for thirty years they are looking for twenty. I said that is very important believe it or not. That is very important and then we talked about the impact of the city, we talked about the Mayor's commitment of neighborhood versus downtown and what impact it would have on the city. I talked about section

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7 and section 8 of the memorandum of understanding which obviously has been altered since then I should say by agreement. More specifically very concerned I think it is the last sentence or the last two sentences it talks about the City shall exempt GTECH from any and all inventory taxes which is inclusive of computers, telephones, and things of that sort that which is there expertise is, machinery and things of that sort. They talked about shall be exempted. In section 8 it talks about that we agree to support them in any and all in assisting them in achieving getting all their permits and so on, and we can not guarantee that. Obviously we will do everything we can. More importantly things that we are all concerned about minority hiring, I talked about the joint ventures with the minority contractors, and not only that the actual purchase of bricks and mortars. Then we talked about the 700 jobs or so, what appreciable jobs will we see for the people of the City of Providence especially with concern with the minority community. I touched the entire gamble with them today, and I also indicated to them that on the docket this evening there will be a bill, I just want to let you know what I know as of right now. Then I talked about the importance of having some eyes and that this committee the Finance Committee and the Commission they have my support as I think the Council support in making sure we hire whatever experts we need to and I think we are making a great step by hiring Kelly Sheridan who knows the City and knows these types of issues, and more importantly I think the fact that Mr. Sheridan has a great relationship with the General Assembly, the Governor's Offices, and certainly with the Council, the Mayor's Office, the Executive Branch of Government. He is a well respected attorney and we will certainly tell you it is a bargain at a \$130.00 dollars per hour that is a reduced fee, I think Kelly probably commence probably \$250.00 dollars per hour but that is another issue for another day. I think he has always done great work, he is in many circles and is professionally known as Clark Kent, and those of you who know him as a lawyer he is Superman. I encourage my colleagues on this committee to please

meet.....so with that I urge my esteem colleagues to please support this resolution that is before you. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Other questions, comments, concerns?

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I just want to say that I want to commend the President and Leadership for moving this so fast because I think it is very important. It is clear that this is a very important issue for the entire State of Rhode Island by the fact that the General Assembly per the paper said that they never moved this fast in their life, I am paraphrasing. Just like the mall I wasn't there but I do remember it took a couple of years for the whole mall and the final execution of that and as a member of this newly appointed committee I feel more confident Mr. Chairman and other members of the Council that we need to have someone who is dedicated who will be dedicated to this specific issue to be able to be able to understand the facts and figures and be able to have the additional time to meet to burn the midnight oil with the other parties the GTECH parties and whoever else is involved. I am supporting this initiative and I think it will also help all of us understand what we are doing, because in the same vein we all know we are trying to get the non-taxable, non-profits to pay their fair share, so we need to balance that with that this is a full profit that does pay taxes and they are looking for a tax break. I want to make sure whatever we do present to the Council that the Council feels in the best comfortable position and is in the light that when we are fight both those battles that we are on solid ground. I think this will help us immensely to understand the intricacy to this proposal. Thank you Mr. Chairman, and at the appropriate will subdue the appropriate support.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Other questions or comments?

On motion of Councilman Aponte, seconded by Councilman Mancini it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

Motion carries.

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CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Before we adjourn we need to reconsider agenda item number 5, there is a correction that has to be made.

On motion of Councilman Aponte, seconded by Councilman Mancini it is voted to reconsider agenda item number 5.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: The Clerk brought this to my attention and I failed to mention when speaking to Bishop Farrow we just to amend it because that is not his address, this is an old address. We just need to correct it to reflect the new address which is?

BISHOP FARROW: 20 Legion Memorial Drive, Providence, RI 02909.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: At this time I would entertain a motion to amend agenda item number 5 to reflect the change of address.

On motion of Councilman Aponte, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Romano to amend the foregoing Communication.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

Motion carries.

On motion of Councilman Aponte, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Romano it is voted to approve the foregoing Communication as amended.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

Motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman Aponte, seconded by Councilman Mancini it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 o'clock p.m.


CLERK


ASSISTANT CLERK