

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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PROCEEDINGS IN RE: *
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PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE *
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE REGARDING *
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING *
AGREEMENTS BY AND BETWEEN THE *
CITY OF PROVIDENCE AND LOCAL *
799, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION *
OF FIREFIGHTERS *
-and- *
LOCAL UNION 1033 OF THE *
LABORER'S INTERNATIONAL UNION *
OF NORTH AMERICA *
* * * * *

Providence City Hall
Providence, RI
January 11, 1993
7:00 P.M.

BEFORE: David G. Dillon, Chairman
Thomas M. Glavin, Vice Chairman
Evelyn V. Fagnoli
David V. Igliazzi
Joshua N. Fenton
Patricia McLaughlin, Deputy Solicitor

ALLIED COURT REPORTERS
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ORIGINAL

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I am happy to welcome
2 you all to this public hearing concerning the
3 collective bargaining agreement between the City of
4 Providence and Local Union 1033 of the Laborer's
5 International Union of North America, and Local 799 of
6 the International Association of Firefighters. I am
7 David Dillion. I'm the councilman from the 8th Ward,
8 and I am chairman of the Committee On Finance. On my
9 left is Councilman Thomas Glavin from the 12th Ward,
10 who is Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee and the
11 majority leader of the City Council. On my right is
12 Councilwoman Evelyn Fargnoli, who is a member of the
13 Finance Committee, and represents the 5th Ward. She
14 is the president pro tempore of the City Council. We
15 have Councilman David Igliazzi, who represents the 7th
16 Ward in the City of Providence and serves as deputy
17 majority leader, and we also have the minority leader
18 Councilman Joshua Fenton, who serves the 3rd Ward.
19 Since we have such a relatively small list of people
20 that have to speak, I don't think it is necessary to
21 indicate we should restrict debate, but I would ask
22 that people recognize in their comments, if they are
23 making the same point that has been made by somebody
24 else, in the interest of everybody's time, and in

1 consideration of everybody, that we not repeat the
2 same points over and over again. The only other
3 comment that we have to make is this is a public
4 hearing. It is an opportunity for you the public to
5 present to the City Council Finance Committee your
6 concerns, your opinions. It is not an interchange,
7 and it is not a question and answer period. If you
8 have suggestions as to things we should ask ourselves
9 before voting on this, if you have suggestions as to
10 other information that we should gather before we make
11 a decision, that's fine, but it is not a give and
12 take, question and answer period. The first person
13 that has signed up to speak is Joe Lackey of 256
14 Douglas Avenue. State your name for the record.

15 MR. LACKEY: Joseph Lackey, 256
16 Douglas Avenue. Dealing with the contracts of the --
17 of either department, which I hopefully know something
18 about, we apparently do not believe in buying updated
19 equipment. We have in the last couple of years bought
20 equipment that is brand new, but out of date by at
21 least 20 years based on technology that has developed
22 as far back as the mid '70's. We currently have 15
23 engines and eight ladders. We have a heavy rescue,
24 which from what I can find out now is going to become

1 a special hazard truck by looking at the new piece of
2 equipment we just purchased, which I believe will
3 require four men instead of the current one man, so we
4 will have to add more personnel for that. Based on
5 equipment and manpower, the 15 engines we have also
6 include three to four engines that are new. New
7 engines should require what is called a rapid water
8 proportioner. It simply eliminates the turbulence of
9 the water from the hydrant, which thereby allows the
10 reduction in sizes of fire hoses from the current two
11 and a half to a one and three quarter inch diameter
12 hose, which is the same as the attack hose which they
13 take into the houses. Such hoses are all free
14 connected. All you do is roll them and run, that's
15 it. Another thing that was developed in the '70's
16 were -- actually two things, but dealing with the same
17 item, there was an automatic nozzle which
18 automatically corrects the flow of the water no matter
19 how much the pressure reduces, and there is also, if
20 you want to go one step further, a radio control
21 nozzle which will let the man at the hose adjust the
22 flow of the water automatically. We currently have 15
23 pail control operators on the engine. He is also the
24 driver of the truck. That position was eliminated or

1 should have been eliminated back in the '70's with the
2 creation of the automatic nozzle or the higher
3 technology radio control nozzle, so, therefore, we
4 have -- we had three men up until a couple of years
5 ago; now we have four. When we had three, we should
6 have had two. With the type of equipment and engines
7 Syracuse, New York, has, an engine company comprising
8 of five men; we have four. The only difference is
9 they have two trucks for that fire bed. They have a
10 maxi-pumper with a 55-foot aerial ladder, which will
11 take care of most house fires and most building fires
12 in the City of Providence. There are very few
13 buildings in between 55 and 95. We can have ladder
14 trucks. Their five men -- they also have, the other
15 three men comprised of a mini-pumper, which is also a
16 heavy rescue truck. It has a 500 gallon per minute
17 pumper which will take care of three hoses. Those
18 five men, in basic fact, are almost or actually with
19 two engine companies you would have ten men. You
20 would have six -- three men or four men to operate
21 the -- or actually, I'm sorry, you would have six men
22 to operate the engine, and you would have four men to
23 do the truck work. So, in fact, a ladder on a house
24 fire or on a structure 155 or under could be taken

1 care of by two companies, which would be ten men. Our
2 rescue, we currently have five rescue, 110 men per
3 shift, which will have to increase to 113 based on the
4 special hazards truck, I believe. That 113 men based
5 on the use of mini and maxi engines, we currently have
6 15 engines employing four men each, so that is 60. If
7 you divide that by five, you can have 12 maxis, 12
8 minis, which is 24 engines. As far as the ISO is
9 concerned, your insurance rating you would increase
10 from 15 engines to 24 engines, and as far as the ISO
11 is concerned, the maxi with the 55 aerial is also
12 equal to one half of a ladder, so those 12 maxis then
13 would be ISO rated six ladder trucks. If we wanted to
14 maintain our eight ladder trucks, ISO rating we would
15 then require only two ladder trucks. If we want to
16 increase our rescue, we have more than enough men,
17 more than enough for that; so 24 engines would require
18 60. Our two ladders would require eight, so there is
19 68. We want to increase to seven rescue, no problem.
20 I would recommend that rescue not be on the same time
21 shift as suppression and truck company. They should
22 be on an eight-hour shift. A 14 hour and 10 hour
23 shift are much too long. It would require
24 approximately 62 personnel with duty hours, seven --

1 and at that rate you could have seven rescue on two
2 shifts; you could have five rescue on the third shift.
3 That, with allowing for a 15 percent absentee rate,
4 would require 62 personnel to man and cover the whole
5 operation. 62 in total. That is for all powers in
6 service, total manpower of 62 employed in that
7 function. If we got rid of or if we want to maintain
8 this hazard, special hazard truck, I would suggest we
9 eliminate one of our truck companies. I cannot
10 understand how our ISO requires 15 engines and eight
11 ladder. It is not proportionate. You are supposed to
12 have two to one, a minimum two to one, two engines to
13 one ladder. You don't require, you don't need one
14 engine one ladder, which it turns out to be we have 15
15 and eight which then puts you down to one ladder and
16 one truck on the odd numbers. 14 engines would
17 therefore require seven ladders. We have 15 engines,
18 why do we have another ladder? It just doesn't fit.
19 Warwick, Pawtucket, I think there is three to one
20 engine to ladder. Cranston is two to one. Warwick is
21 three to one, engine to ladder. The only city that
22 has four men on a ladder is Cranston. Warwick -- not
23 ladder, I'm sorry. Pawtucket has three men on a
24 ladder. Warwick has three men on an engine.

1 Pawtucket has three men on an engine. Based on the
2 rapid water proportioner, automatic nozzles, injuries
3 by personnel would be greatly reduced. The need to
4 take attack hoses up stairways would be eliminated
5 with the use of the maxi-pumper because then you would
6 have an aerial way to get to the house. There is one
7 other item on the maxi, it would also have a tour
8 hose. Based on the use of the rapid water
9 proportioner, instead of a six inch hose, you would
10 only need a three and a half inch hose, and you would
11 still get the 800 gallons per minute to pass of a six
12 inch hose, so the technology is there, very much so.
13 I will suggest, highly suggest that the Finance
14 Committee contact Syracuse, New York, which has had
15 such an operation since the '70's, and has a very good
16 Fire Department. Thank you very much.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me take the
18 opportunity to introduce some of my colleagues who
19 have arrived, Councilwoman Josephine DiRuzzo
20 represents the 15th Ward; Stephen Woener is the City
21 Auditor, Councilman Joseph DeLuca represents the 6th
22 Ward, which is Mount Pleasant; Councilwoman Balbina
23 Young represents the 11th Ward, which is South
24 Providence and part of the West End; Councilman Peter

1 Mancini represents the 14th Ward, which is mostly
2 Elmhurst; and Councilwoman Pat Nolan represents the
3 9th Ward, which is mostly Elmwood and part of
4 Washington Park. The next speaker is Sydney Green.
5 We need to get your address for the record.

6 MR. GREEN: Chairman David Dillion,
7 good evening, ladies and gentlemen of the council. My
8 opening remarks --

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Please state your name
10 and address.

11 MR. GREEN: Sidney Green, 299 Cole
12 Avenue, Providence. My opening remarks disclose
13 nothing you people on the council are not already
14 aware of, but I rehearsed them for a few days, so I am
15 going to say them here today with your kind
16 permission. The duly elected members of the
17 Providence City Council did pass a city ordinance
18 forbidding passage of more than one year contracts with
19 city unions. This was passed on July 27, 1992. In
20 addition, a 1981 City of Providence ordinance decreed
21 that no collective bargaining between Providence and
22 any labor organization is effected until and unless
23 ratified by the Providence City Council.
24 Unfortunately, the courts will probably have to decide

1 which way is legal, but until such time and in our
2 current economic climate, with economic experts
3 advising that all of New England in general, Rhode
4 Island in particular, and certainly Providence is
5 definitely included, they will not recover from this
6 devastating recession and terribly high unemployment,
7 at least in the private sector of nonunion government
8 employees, it certainly makes a lot more sense and is
9 much more intelligent to process one year contracts
10 rather than multi-year contracts, at least for the
11 benefit of all the citizens of Providence and the
12 taxpayers of Providence. I emphasize all the citizens
13 and property taxpayers of Providence because many of
14 our Providence union members and city employees do not
15 even live in Providence and could care less about the
16 approximately 120,000 taxpayers who contribute a great
17 deal of tax money to all the union benefit programs.
18 Doesn't it make more sense to discuss union contracts
19 each year at least for the next few years until we see
20 what the financial condition of our city is in and the
21 financial condition of our hard working young
22 taxpayers, and certainly our elderly taxpayers;
23 unless, of course, our mayor and his chief negotiator,
24 Mr. Frank Corrente, have crystal balls that show a

1 tremendous boom in our income being just around the
2 corner. Talking about making and having more money,
3 the greater Providence Chamber Of Commerce had a study
4 of income comparisons between state and city
5 government employees and workers in the private sector
6 that showed that the government employees had a 20
7 percent higher income compared to the average income
8 of employees in the private sector for the years of
9 1990, 1991, and through the report date of June 30,
10 1992. That report and many other statistics show that
11 a great majority of private corporations and companies
12 in those years up until today have told their
13 employees that they must start sharing in the cost of
14 their health plans and various other benefits. Going
15 even further, a Journal Bulletin article of 1992,
16 September 22nd, revealed that a very wealthy
17 corporation General Motors, a hell of a lot more
18 wealthier than the City of Providence, as of January
19 1st, 1993, will no longer pay for health coverage of
20 any employee when they retire and/or are no longer in
21 their employ. It is very obvious that when economic
22 conditions changed so did the financial thinking of
23 employers, and so must the planning and thinking of
24 our city government and the attitude of our city

1 employee unions. They must change as the financial
2 conditions of our city and our taxpayers worsen. As I
3 have said many times and will continue to say, we must
4 be fair share partners and not antagonists in solving
5 the financial and moral problems of Providence. When
6 union contract negotiations first started, Mayor Cianci
7 was quoted in newspaper articles on August 5th, again
8 on September 5th, and a third time on September 24th,
9 quoted and I quote, "I'm very very positive and very
10 optimistic that many concessions will be made by the
11 unions in our negotiations." Some of them include
12 elimination of the clause that allows city employees
13 working inside government building offices to receive
14 a full day's pay even though they leave work as soon
15 as the outside temperature reaches 90 degrees; to
16 eliminate the annual contribution to the city
17 employees legal fund by the taxpayers. A legal fund
18 that, amidst many other aspects of it, insults the
19 intelligence of any intelligent thinking person by
20 contributing to a fund to pay for legal costs of the
21 city employees if they happen to sue the person that
22 is providing those funds; eliminate or institute I
23 should say co-payments by union members and all city
24 employees for health benefits, and many many other

1 items that he was very optimistic of getting in
2 concessions, and what was the union leadership's
3 response to those very small and very fair concessions
4 that our mayor so optimistically predicted? The
5 president of Local 1033 laborers' union, President
6 Joseph Virgilio said, "I'm damn if I am going to give
7 up any benefits because some clowns in the city
8 council ask us to. Send in those clowns, I will deal
9 with them." Just remember, ladies and gentlemen,
10 those clowns represent all of us taxpaying clowns as
11 far as Mr. Virgilio is concerned. Another quote,
12 Phylis Tennien, President of the Teachers' Union in
13 response to a request for a co-payment in their health
14 plan benefits paid for by the taxpayers of Providence
15 was quoted in the September 2nd Journal Bulletin just
16 after they received their three year contract, quote
17 "There are no give-backs, no co-pay. We have Blue
18 Cross for life." That sure was a most sensitive
19 remark to read in the newspaper for all those
20 taxpayers who pay for the health benefits of those
21 teachers and other union memberships, and yet many of
22 whom don't even have enough money to pay for adequate
23 health coverage for themselves. Real sensitive.
24 Another union president. Then the remark attributed

1 to the president of the Firefighters' Union, Steve
2 Day, "We've worked hard for what we get, and we are
3 giving nothing back." Does the union leadership ever
4 stop to consider how hard the young taxpayers are
5 working just to make ends meet, those that still have
6 a job in this high unemployment, and how hard the
7 elderly retirees worked all their lives just to have
8 what they earned by themselves; what they earned, not
9 from benefits given to them by others. Multi-year
10 contracts were signed by Mayor Cianci with Local 1033
11 around October 27, 1992; Firefighters sometime a
12 little bit later in October, but not one of those
13 contracts had been submitted to the city council,
14 which is accountable to the taxpayers of Providence,
15 not submitted until many protests by the council and
16 many requests and even a possible court decision to
17 force them to do so, and yet for the years since the
18 council ratification of union contract was
19 implemented, 1981, 1982, 1983, union contracts were
20 regularly submitted to the council for ratification,
21 submitted by Mayor Cianci and then by Mayor Paolino
22 who served from 1984 to 1991. Negotiations by one part
23 of our elected officials, the administration, and the
24 discussion and ratification by a second part of our

1 elected officials, the city council, is certainly a
2 more credible and democratic process for
3 accountability over a period of one year, a better
4 system to the taxpayers of Providence who pay the
5 bills to support the programs and benefits that are
6 received by a comparatively few union members; few
7 compared to the great majority of taxpayers who pay
8 for them. When the devastating recession took hold of
9 our economy over the past few years a slogan spread
10 through the entire private industry of our country; a
11 slogan that was not meant to hurt employees but rather
12 to allow employers just to survive. That slogan was
13 lean and mean, trim excess personnel, consolidate
14 departments, decrease too generous benefit programs.
15 Bottom line what does that mean? Cut costs, not raise
16 prices. Well, a more proportionate sharing of
17 government costs, a more equitable give and take
18 attitude in the negotiations between union and
19 administration will make for a similar bottom line,
20 cut costs of government, not raise taxes.

21 In conclusion, the word accountability is fast
22 becoming an important expression and issue in publicly
23 owned companies in the private sector through the
24 stockholders who indirectly pay the salaries of the

1 company owners and Boards of Directors, and those
2 stockholders are now demanding a more equitable and
3 fair return on their investments in those companies.
4 Well, accountability should certainly have more
5 meaning and more importance to the elected officials
6 and union leadership of Providence City unions and
7 Providence Government employees; accountability to
8 their employers, the taxpayers of Providence, and
9 three year union contracts are not conducive to
10 accountability. I implore you, our city council and
11 our city administration and the city union
12 leaderships, work together with each other and with
13 the taxpayers. We are not the enemy. We just want
14 you to remember that the young nonunion workers who
15 live and pay taxes in Providence want a fair financial
16 shake for themselves and their families, and the older
17 retired taxpayers just want a fair opportunity to keep
18 enough of their very hard earned money to enable them
19 to retain their homes and to have their own proper
20 health protection in case of sickness, and to be able
21 to exercise their right to live out their lives in
22 dignity. Thank you very much for your patience.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is
24 Councilman Joseph DeLuca, and I am going to put this

1 sign-in sheet down there. If there is anyone else
2 that wants to speak, come up and sign in.

3 MR. DeLUCA: My name is Joe DeLuca.
4 Thank you. Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of the
5 Finance Committee, fellow council members, and all the
6 taxpayers that are here both union and nonunion. I
7 appreciate you people taking the time to take an
8 interest in this very important issue. I come before
9 you this evening to urge you to make a recommendation
10 to the city council as a whole to reject these two
11 contracts that we are discussing, and the reason I ask
12 for this consideration -- the reasons are many, but
13 one of them in a nutshell is basically the
14 administration in the negotiation process of these
15 contracts, they went into discussions and actually
16 they took a fall. They went in there with a fixed
17 game. They did not go in there to fight for the best
18 deal that they could get. We offered debateless, I
19 have 25 suggestions on ways to cut costs, on ways to
20 ask for some give back from the unions, partial
21 payment, which involves some five or six dollars a
22 week on an individual's part. I understand that union
23 leaders put the word out that we wanted the employees
24 to pay their whole health package. Another lie; just

1 like Question 11 was. The other point to consider is
2 that this contract, as Mr. Green pointed out, is
3 illegal for several reasons, but the bottom line is
4 that we don't have the money anyways. There is no way
5 we could fulfill this agreement. It is impossible.
6 We at this time will be fortunate if we can maintain
7 current funding. I think that we are going to end up
8 with a short fall this year. Probably we will, well,
9 let me stay away from figures under the current
10 circumstances, but I don't see us being able to
11 maintain current levels, and I urge the administration
12 to stop playing games with the city's future and to
13 begin to take a serious look at the lists of the
14 legislative package we put together, the list of union
15 concessions, and to begin to renegotiate these
16 contracts the way it was meant to be, and I would also
17 urge the unions to perhaps get together with the
18 members of the council and let us speak to them and
19 tell them how we feel, what our input is, because
20 right now it has been a one-sided story. The union
21 leaders basically don't know how the council feels.
22 They don't have any written documentation. All they
23 have is whatever the Mayor's negotiating team was able
24 to tell them. I think we ought to open up a line of

1 communication with them to let them know where we
2 stand on many of the issues. Thank you very much.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is
4 Sylvia Pullian.

5 MS. PULLIAN: My name is Sylvia
6 Pullian. I'm on the 11th Ward Committee and Balbina
7 Young is my councilwoman, which is in the 11th ward,
8 which is one of the poorest wards in the City of
9 Providence, and I'm working for the city now. I am
10 one of the lowest paid persons in the city, and I can
11 prove it because it is all public records, and I feel
12 as though this city council is trying to misuse the
13 poor workers. There are no fabulous paid workers in
14 the City of Providence. We are union workers;
15 workers. Please believe me, Councilman Dillion, you
16 are the finance president, you know for a fact that we
17 are very very poor here in the City of Providence that
18 is working for the City of Providence. We are trying
19 to give the so-called taxpayers, which we are
20 taxpayers too, the best service possible. I know for
21 a fact that we get ten to fifteen thousand calls per
22 day from people complaining about this and that and
23 the other. We try to do everything possible for them.
24 The City Council, in fact, acts like this so-called

1 negotiation with the union is so terrible; we are
2 trying to steal from the city, which we are not. They
3 should be going after Rhode Island Hospital, Johnson &
4 Wales, those are your tax people that are stealing
5 your tax dollars, not the city workers. We are here
6 to provide a service, and we do the very best we can
7 under the circumstances, because we are under paid.
8 We have not had a pay increase since 1990. Now, I am
9 a worker for the City of Providence, and everyone in
10 this room can tell you that knows about the city, that
11 we have not had a raise since 1990, and that is going
12 on three years. We have children to feed just like
13 everybody else. You are talking about the poor
14 taxpayers, we are poor taxpayers too. How are we
15 suppose to live? That is all I have to say. I am not
16 going to run on and on and on like some people with
17 all these statistics and knocking people.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: The last person that
19 signed up at this point is Diane Howes. Anybody else
20 that wishes to speak, sign in, please.

21 MS. HOWES: I would like to address the
22 council on some specific points. First of all, the
23 firemen's contract, on the provision on the firemen's
24 contract it should not include drivers and battalion

1 chiefs. It should be limited, if it is going to be
2 there at all, sincerely to trucks because this is
3 supposed to be for the protection of the fire workers,
4 firemen, not for the protection of the battalion
5 chiefs. In that contract there is no provision for
6 physical fitness tests, ongoing physical fitness tests
7 for the firefighters. If the medical provisions of
8 the contract stand, we as taxpayers in the City of
9 Providence have the right to make sure that the men we
10 are sending out to do hard physical labor are fit to
11 do it. If they are not, we should not have to pay for
12 their medical bills when they are too unfit, really
13 unfit to do the job that are supposed to be doing.
14 Now, we know in this contract that the longevity pay
15 and the legal fund also need to be addressed. These
16 were not addressed in this contract or in the special
17 legal funds in the other ones, and these are things
18 that the unions have to start negotiating with the
19 city and through the council with the taxpayers of the
20 City of Providence. In the private sector there is no
21 such thing as longevity pay. We all know that if you
22 work in the private sector. We don't get a pay raise
23 for warming a chair. You don't get a pay raise for
24 sitting there ten years. You get a pay raise for

1 doing work.

2 Now, we also have a moonlighting problem,
3 especially with the firemen. I really hate to bring
4 this up because I realize this was a young man's
5 dream, but there is a Providence firefighter right now
6 who is the goaltender for the Providence Bruins. Now,
7 it's illegal. It's in their contract they are not
8 supposed to moonlight, and this man is out playing
9 hockey. God bless him, I'm glad he got to do what he
10 wanted to do, I really am, but his union president
11 called and arranged it, and I don't believe a union
12 president ought to be encouraging a breach of contract
13 with the city. Now, when you look at all the
14 contracts and the health plans, one thing that I
15 believe the city taxpayers really would like is a
16 parity for the union workers and the city workers, and
17 parity means that the union workers do not get Blue
18 Cross for life because we don't. I pay a premium.
19 Every company in Providence pays. Their employees pay
20 part of the premiums. We pay co-payments. We have
21 limits, but one thing that we do have that the city
22 does not have is the opportunity to have a menu of
23 plans. We can choose between Major Medical, Managed
24 Care, or HMO. Now, the city workers don't have that

1 opportunity. They could get cheaper care and cheaper
2 premiums and get the care they need at a very cost
3 savings to the city, and all the city workers should
4 come under the same managed plan. It shouldn't be a
5 separate plan for the police, for the firemen, for the
6 city workers, for the teachers. A health care plan
7 should be worked out for all of them. We cannot hope
8 to attract new residents and new businesses to
9 Providence until the city conducts its business with
10 some relation to the present day economic climate.

11 Now, my third point is one that has been made
12 before. These contracts on their face are illegal.
13 The council earlier this year passed an ordinance
14 setting a limit for all contracts to be negotiated for
15 one year only. The city taxpayers were very proud
16 that the council stood up and said that, and we felt
17 very badly. People I have talked to; I work downtown,
18 people I work with were very upset that the mayor
19 ignored the council, and that the mayor decided that
20 the council and the ordinances that the council has
21 passed are not worth even bothering with. Now, to
22 uphold the authority of the council, which has been
23 vested in its members by the voters of the City of
24 Providence, these contracts must be rejected. Thank

1 you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: The final signed up
3 speaker is Councilwoman Pat Nolan.

4 MS. NOLAN: My name is Patricia Nolan.
5 I live at 230 Atlantic Avenue. In addition to the
6 fact that I believe that the contracts before us are
7 illegal contracts because of the ordinance that we
8 passed at budget time saying that we would only have
9 one year contracts, I have problems with a lot of
10 things in that contract. The minimum manning, which
11 was never approved by the council, it is absolutely I
12 think bankrupting us, and not only that, but I
13 understand they are going to start another fire school
14 for additional firefighters just to meet that minimum
15 manning. The clause where there is a priority to the
16 sons and daughters of firefighters for jobs in the
17 department if the firefighter himself goes out on
18 disability absolutely locks out our sons and daughters
19 here in the City of Providence. There is no way that
20 they will ever get a job or ever have the opportunity
21 to become a firefighter if priority is given to all of
22 these disabled firefighters, and as we all know, most
23 of the firefighters do go out on disability these
24 days. The prepaid legal service of \$75,000 I was the

1 only member of the Board of Contracts who voted no on
2 this \$75,000 payout on the basis that I believe that
3 we are dealing with an illegal contract. I personally
4 believe we should have one year contracts. We don't
5 know what next year is going to bring or the year
6 after. I believe we are in a serious -- we have a
7 serious fiscal crisis, and we are going to be lucky if
8 we get out of this year without a deficit, and I don't
9 know how we can even think of giving four and a half
10 percent raises and five percent raises down the line.
11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: The last speaker signed
13 up is Thomas J. Ricci.

14 MR. RICCI: Hello. My name is Thomas
15 Ricci. I am a taxpayer of Providence. I understand
16 that the city is in financial disarray, so are many
17 other cities in this state, but what my point tonight
18 is to tell you council people when you make your
19 decision, think of the political climate that is
20 encompassing the City of Providence right now. The
21 old adage was let your conscious be your guide. This
22 time I think your new adage has to be let the
23 taxpayers be your guide. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: That's concludes the

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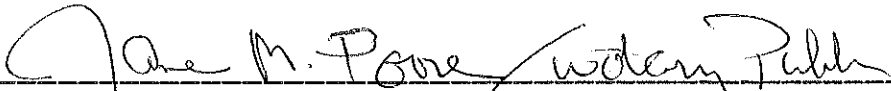
people that are signed up. If there anybody else? If not, we appreciate you coming out tonight. Thank you very much. This meeting is adjourned

(HEARING CLOSED 8:00 P.M.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jane M. Poore, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 30th day of January, 1993.



JANE M. POORE, NOTARY PUBLIC/CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

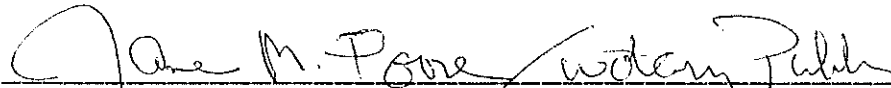
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2 not, we appreciate you coming out tonight. Thank you
3 very much. This meeting is adjourned

4 (HEARING CLOSED 8:00 P.M.)

5 C E R T I F I C A T E

6 I, Jane M. Poore, hereby certify that the
7 foregoing is a true accurate, and complete transcript of
my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

8 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this
9 30th day of January, 1993.

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11 JANE M. POORE, NOTARY PUBLIC/CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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