

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, The maintenance of safe and aesthetically pleasing roadways and sidewalks is a vital responsibility of local government; and

WHEREAS, In order to properly install, repair, and maintain equipment related to utility service, public utilities must occasionally open or excavate public roads and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, If not completed appropriately, such work by public utilities can leave City streets and sidewalks in poor condition, harming public safety, inconveniencing residents, and lowering the quality of life in our communities; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the National Resources Network (NRN) Strategic Fiscal & Management Plan for the City of Providence found a large backlog of sidewalk repair applications and estimated it would cost \$90 million to repair the City's sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, the NRN report stated that strengthening the City's capital infrastructure, such as roads and sidewalks, would "provide the foundation for stronger neighborhoods, improved quality of life of residents, and increased economic attractiveness and competitiveness for employers"; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2017 Infrastructure Report Card, 54% of Rhode Island's public roads were rated as in "poor condition," and Rhode Island's drivers face costs of more than \$800 per year from driving on roads in need of repair; and

WHEREAS, The issues surrounding the opening and excavation of streets and sidewalks are governed by both City ordinances and State statutes, are affected by decisions of both public and private actors, and impact all who live, work, and visit Providence; and

WHEREAS, As public servants and the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has an obligation to ensure that roads and sidewalks are maintained in appropriate condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby request the Director of Public Works immediately stop the issuance of road opening permits to National Grid and any vendor doing business for National Grid until all city streets and sidewalks are repaired to their original condition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby request the City Solicitors Office file an official complaint with the Public Utilities Commission regarding National Grid's work, as well as the work being done its vendors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all outstanding fines owed to the City of Providence by National Grid and its vendors be paid in full to the City of Providence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Director of Public Works, the City Solicitor, National Grid, and the Public Utilities Commission.