

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

Approved

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §44-3-9, as amended, authorizes the City Council to exempt or stabilize taxes on property used for manufacturing, commercial or residential purposes; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII of Chapter 21 of the Providence Code of Ordinances establishes policies and procedures to enable tax stabilizations for various purposes and property types; and

WHEREAS, The City has approved dozens of tax stabilization agreements over the last 20 years, but there has not been a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of these incentives in terms of job creation, business growth and investment, and long-term financial benefit to the city; and

WHEREAS, Regular reviews of tax stabilization agreements are necessary to ensure property owners are complying with certain requirements, such as affordable housing, apprenticeships, hiring of minority- and women-owned businesses, and First Source; and

WHEREAS, The economic landscape of Providence and Rhode Island has shifted dramatically during the past two decades, and the city and state are still recovering from the Great Recession; and

WHEREAS, Encouraging homeownership, small business growth and investment by developers, expanding Providence's tax base, and improving job opportunities are key goals and concerns for the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby find a need to examine, review, and make recommendations regarding taxation policies generally, and tax stabilizations specifically.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That:

- 1) The City Council Special Committee on Ways and Means shall call upon the City Solicitor, the Director of Economic Development, the Director of Finance, the Director of First Source, the Internal Auditor, the MBE/WBE Coordinator, and the Tax Assessor, as well as representatives from outside organizations with expertise in the area, to provide relevant documents, research and /or testimony regarding these matters; and
- 2) The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the parties listed herein.