



MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

March 6, 2024

Honorable Rep Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
House of Representatives
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

The City of Providence supports the proposed \$50 million Green Economy Bond. We especially support the \$10 million dedicated to municipal resiliency. This financial assistance is a critical resource in our community's ability to address the mounting challenges presented by climate change and helps us to leverage additional funding opportunities.

The City was fortunate to have received Municipal Resilience Program Action Grants for these three projects from the RI Infrastructure Bank:

- **The Public Street Waterfront Access Project** in South Providence, a racially and ethnically diverse environmental justice neighborhood that is cut off from water access. By incorporating green infrastructure, the project will increase resilience to stormwater flooding and combat the heat island effect. It will transform the paved street into a valued community asset by creating meaningful, safe access to the waterfront.
- **The Mashapaug Pond Treatment Train** project, furthering the work of stormwater management in Roger Williams Park. The project will filter the high level of Phosphorus from waters flowing into the park, creating a safer environment for the 1.5 million annual visitors to Roger Williams Park.
- **The purchase of standby generators at Elmwood Community Center and Davey Lopes Recreation Center.** These generators provide resiliency and enable the Centers to serve the communities during extreme weather events or disruptions in power.

Recurring extreme weather events have severely impacted our residents, businesses, and essential public infrastructure. More than ever, resources are needed to combat the rising threats to our community's basic infrastructure and well-being. We appreciate your consideration of this essential investment in resilient infrastructure improvements that safeguard public health, public safety, and private property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila Dornady".

Sheila Dornady

Chief of Policy and Resiliency

Office of the Mayor
25 Dorrance Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903
www.providenceri.gov