

## MAYOR MARIA RIVERA

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Hon. Marvin Abney Chairman, House Finance Committee Rhode Island State House Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for H-6077

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 6077 which were graciously introduced at the request of the City of Central Falls by Representative Joshua Giraldo.

H-6077 authorizes the city of Central Falls to issue up to \$15M in bonds for school construction. Thanks to this committee's support of an initial \$144M school construction bond, the city is nearing completion of construction on its new high school and will, thereafter, commence construction on a new dual language elementary school. This local bond will close the financing gap and permit the second project to be successfully completed allowing the city to close at least one school and likely commence a housing development at that site.

In support thereof, please find attached a City Council Resolution passed by the Central Falls City Council in support of the school construction bond. Please note that the Resolution and the Question approved by city voters in November 2024 (with a winning margin of 90% to 10%) were for the amount of \$26M but, thereafter, the City has determined that it needs the lower amount of \$15M. A separate resolution in support of House Bill 6077 is also attached.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Maria Rivera

Mayor

Cc: Members of the House Finance Committee

Encl.