



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, The disposal of compostable materials in municipal waste streams wastes vital and enriching and water-retaining organic matter, furthering soil depletion and dehydration; and

WHEREAS, Municipalities in Rhode Island are subject to the lowest tipping fees in New England, discouraging them from pursuing meaningful waste diversion while increasing waste management expenditure; and

WHEREAS, Food rescue and recovery would prevent edible and nourishing food from entering the municipal waste stream while complementing other measures to improve the sustainability and thrift of the materials that will, including an expanded composting program featuring improved source-separation and improved outreach; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5195 and its Senate companion Senate Bill 0104 would create, among other dedicated funding streams, a municipal waste diversion fund supplying grant funding to towns and cities for the development and implementation of measures for food waste prevention, food rescue and recovery, expanded composting, and against illegal dumping; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has established residential composting and would be empowered by this funding to sustain its efforts to combat food waste, to improve compostable material collection, and to expand upon existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The expanded diversion of organic wastes from the Providence municipal solid waste stream would alleviate the burden borne by and cost associated with the desperately strained Central Landfill in Johnston while creating enriching soil amendments that could be accessed by residents, businesses, and the City; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council would like to express its gratitude to the sponsors of this legislation for their leadership on this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council offers its strong support for H-5195 and its Senate companion S-0104 and urges the General Assembly to enact this legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to lead sponsors Representative Terri Cortvriend and Senator Bridget Valverde, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Pro Tempore Hanna Gallo, and the members of the Providence Delegation.