

**RESOLUTION NO. 257**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING STATE AID TO LIBRARIES TO THE FULL TWENTY-FIVE (25) PERCENT**

**WHEREAS**, for people lacking broadband at home, libraries provide access to computers and Wi-Fi; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community; and

**WHEREAS**, today's libraries and their services extend far beyond the four walls of a building, and everyone is welcome to use their resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island in Article XII, Section I, states that it "shall be the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and to adopt all means which it deems necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education and public library services"; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the importance of libraries in our society, the State of Rhode Island passed legislation setting the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of twenty-five (25%) of the amount spent from local tax funds and the library's private endowment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's proposed FY 2027 budget funds state aid to libraries at 24.1%; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of East Providence recognizes the importance of fully funding our public libraries and supports funding state aid to libraries at the 25% level in FY 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, at the full 25% funding level, the City of East Providence would receive an additional \$21,633 for its libraries; and

**WHEREAS**, H7691 and S2812 have been introduced in the Rhode General Assembly in support of full funding of state aid to libraries.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the East Providence City Council, at the request of the East Providence Public Library Board of Trustees, does hereby support legislation which

would restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws § 29-6-2 (a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the East Providence City Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, Chair of the House Finance Committee, and to the members of East Providence's legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Adopted by the City Council: 4/21/26

Attest:

Andy Skypwort  
City Clerk of East Providence, Rhode Island

Introduced by: Council President Rodericks