

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Providence City Council will be deeply circumspect and diligent in seeking and passing a balanced budget not detrimental to those least able to afford increases in taxation and will prioritize new revenue sources and encourages the city administration to be similarly mindful, prioritizing new revenue sources and thoughtful cuts over residential property tax increases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Providence City Council is requesting continued partnership with the Rhode Island General Assembly in identifying and passing enabling legislation as necessary to raise revenue from new sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon passages of this resolution, copies will be sent to the Honorable Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the Honorable Senate President of the Rhode Island Senate, and the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

COUNCILMAN ESPINAL Moves to Waive the Reading of item 41 and Pass on a Roll Call Vote, Seconded by COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS.

RESULT:	PASSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Councilman Espinal
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Harris
AYES:	Council President Miller, Councilor AnderBois, Councilwoman Anthony, Councilman Espinal, Councilwomen Graves, Harris, Peterson, Councilors Pichardo, Roias, Councilwoman Ryan, Councilor Sanchez, Councilman Taylor, Councilwoman Vargas and Councilman Vargas – 14.
ABSENT:	Councilman Goncalves – 1.

The Motion for Passage is Sustained.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILLER, COUNCILWOMEN HARRIS, GRAVES AND COUNCILOR ROIAS

Resolution Endorsing and Urging Passage by the General Assembly of House Bill 2025 H-5512 and Senate Bill 2025 S-0191, An Act Relating to Taxation - Property Subject to Taxation.

WHEREAS, Legislation authorizing the establishment of a Harm Reduction Center in Rhode Island was passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 2021; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, 404 Rhode Islanders lost their lives due to accidental drug overdoses, with each person who tragically passed representing a cherished friend, neighbor or family member; and

WHEREAS, The loss of a loved one to a drug overdose has profound impacts, leaving lasting scars on Rhode Island communities and underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive harm reduction strategies; and

WHEREAS, Harm Reduction Centers, also known as “safe consumption sites” or “overdose prevention centers” provide various essential services in one location, including access to food, water and hygiene products; safer use supplies and lifesaving drug overdose medications such as Narcan/Naxolone; case management services, HIV and hepatitis C testing and linkage to care; housing support, and peer recovery coaching among other services; and

WHEREAS, Having served nearly 3,500 clients since its flagship opening in 2019, VICTA is a fully integrated healthcare center offering a continuum of services, including prescribing and dispensing medications for opioid and alcohol use disorders and outpatient counseling for substance use, mental health and trauma-related disorders; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island General Assembly is currently considering House Bill H5512 and Senate Companion Bill S0191, which propose granting a tax-exempt status to Project Weber/Renew’s Overdose Prevention Center at 45 Willard Ave in Providence; and

WHEREAS, If granted, the financial relief from tax-exempt status would allow Project Weber/Renew to allocate more of their resources towards life-saving programs and services, directly benefitting the Providence Community by reducing overdose-related fatalities and connecting individuals to vital treatment and recovery support services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby expresses its strong support for House Bill 5512 and Senate Bill S0191 and strongly urges the Rhode Island General Assembly and the Governor of Rhode Island to enact this life-saving legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of this resolution, copies be sent to lead sponsors Representative Jose Batista and Senator Tiara Mack, the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Dominick Ruggerio, and the members of the Providence Delegation to express the strong support for H5512 and S0191.