

THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. Date

Approved. Mayor

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 7198

RESOLVED, that

WHEREAS, House Bill 7198, along with other similar legislative proposals, was introduced in the R.I. General Assembly which seeks to modify existing state statutes to provide for, in relevant part, the continuation of any municipal collective bargaining agreement regarding school teachers beyond its stated term until a successor agreement is entered – commonly referred to as an “Evergreen Clause”; and

WHEREAS, current statute, law, Charter and ordinance provisions allow the City and School Committee to negotiate and decide whether to enter into or allow the expiration of collective bargaining agreements with school teachers as the City determines is in the best interest of the community; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 7198 would strip the City of their present legal authority to act in the best interest of the community when making decisions concerning public employee rights and obligations concerning school teacher labor organizations; and

WHEREAS, decisions regarding school teacher employee rights and benefits, including but not limited to the terms and conditions of their employment, involve considerations well beyond the singular interest of these public employees, such as but not limited to budget expenses, equipment allocation, indirect employee benefits costs and other strategic organization arrangements; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the City and School Committee not be encumbered in the collective bargaining process as it constitutes a legal and policy encroachment on their authority would create an unfair advantage for school teacher labor organizations in the collective bargaining process.

