

****DRAFT****

**DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING**

NOVEMBER 30, 2004

1. Roll Call

Daniel A. Baudouin, Executive Director of The Providence Foundation, opened the public hearing at 8:05 a.m. Directors present included Arnold B. Chace, Judith Cullen, Robert Gagliardi, Evan Granoff, Richard Lappin, Joseph Paolino, Sr., Christopher Placco, Maria Ruggieri, and Stanley Weiss. Ex-officio Directors present included Diana Burdett, Joseph Di Battista, Lt. Timothy Lee.

Providence Foundation staff present included Daniel A. Baudouin, Executive Director.

2. Members of the Public in Attendance

Name	Property/Organization	Phone
Michael Corso	Cornish Associates	421-0254
Jim Hagan	Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce	521-5000
Kevin B. Murphy,		

Esq. Home Loan/Ocean Bank 739-8800

Joseph R. Paolino, Jr. Paolino Properties 274-6611

Eileen Brierley 380 Westminster St. 331-2305

Charles Ridiki 91 Friendship St. 831-2900

Rev. Robert Brooks Grace Church 331-3325

3. Public Hearing

a. Dan Baudouin opened the hearing and distributed a one-page budget summary (copy attached) and Sections 3 and 5 of the Management Plan that was distributed to property owners last spring. He stated that the proposed programs, budget and assessments are consistent with the Management Plan prepared prior to submission of the petition to the City Council. Mr. Baudouin stated that the DPDMA has decided to have an initial 6-month budget, from January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005. This will allow for a full fiscal year to coincide with the City's fiscal year.

Mr. Baudouin announced that awarding of a \$150,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation to The Providence Foundation. The grant is for the purchase of capital equipment for DPDMA's clean and safe program. DPDMA Board members expressed their appreciation.

b. Steve Gibson of Urban Place Consulting Group, DPDMA's consultant to help start-up operations delivered a PowerPoint

presentation of the proposed programs, funding and assessments. Mr. Gibson emphasized that the proposed programs, funding and assessments are all contained in the Management Plan prepared by the Steering Committee, after several meetings and hearings in late 2003 and 2004.

c. Mr. Baudouin asked if there were questions or comments:

• Joseph Paolino, Jr. asked three questions:

(1) Would the safety patrols consist of all retired police officers? Mr. Paolino stated that former officers would be the best because of their knowledge, experience and contacts. He stated that many officers retired young (in their forties) and may welcome the opportunity. They already receive medical insurance and other benefits. He further stated that it was his understanding that agreement was reached whereby all safety guides would be retired police. Mr. Baudouin and Mr. Gibson explained that the Request for Proposal as approved by the Board included requirements to outline the firm's experience with hiring retired police and to discuss their hiring procedure. However, the requirement to hire retired police for all safety guide positions was not included. Mr. Paolino, Jr. and Board member Mr. Paolino, Sr. expressed their strong belief that all safety guides should be retired police. There was much discussion on this point with some Board members expressing different views.

(2) Mr. Paolino, Jr. asked if the cleaning crews would wear uniforms. Mr. Gibson said yes – uniforms would clearly identify cleaning workers as doing work for the DPDMA.

(3) Mr. Paolino, Jr. asked about the \$100,000 budget for communication and marketing. He asked if it was too high. Mr. Baudouin stated that the \$100,000 is a special grant to The Providence Foundation from the RI Foundation's Downcity Fund to provide specific marketing and communication services. The purpose is to provide necessary communication services for the Business Improvement District effort, to implement the Coordinated Arts and Retail Management Program, to market and advocate for downtown and to provide assistance to various downtown organizations. The funds are not transferable to another line item. In response to this issue, Kevin Murphy suggested that a regional marketing approach is used.

- Diane Cabral asked about the timing of the bills. Mr. Gibson stated that the DPDMA is scheduled to send the assessment bills in late December or early January, payable quarterly.**

- Jim Hagan asked about who would be responsible for billing and collection. Mr. Baudouin stated that the DPDMA will be sending the bills; however, there will be a cover letter from the City Tax Collector that clearly states that all taxable property owners must pay the bill or face a City assessment lien. The DPDMA will collect the assessment**

but will partner with the City on those accounts that are unpaid after a reasonable time. The City lien powers will be used if necessary.

- **Diane Cabral asked about the timing of cleaning services and mentioned that early morning cleaning is desirable to clean up after the mess left by nightclub patrons. Mr. Gibson replied that the plan is to conduct early morning cleaning to have a clean district for morning workers.**

- **Mr. Cabral asked about late night security. The DPDMA has not set the hours for security yet. Board member Stanley Weiss stated that a late night/early morning foot patrol is needed. Ex-officio member Josh Miller stated that coordination is needed with the various security initiatives downtown. There was further discussion on the use of retired police and police cadets as safety guides.**

The public hearing was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Baudouin

Executive Director