

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, Rate hikes in electricity and natural gas brought record high utility increases in a time when Rhode Islanders are still recovering from an economic crisis caused by a once in a lifetime pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Percentage Income Payment Plans (PIPP) allow consumers living near or under the Federal Poverty line to pay a percentage of their income (in the 3-6% range) for gas and electricity; and

WHEREAS, PIPPs are working to positive effect in twelve states nationwide, where elderly customers' heating bills were lowered by 90% on the program; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has already enacted a PIPP program to positive results in the 1980s and 1990s with some households in the Warwick pilot saving over \$800 a year; and

WHEREAS, Over 20,000 Rhode Island households have their electricity or gas shut-off for non-payment annually; and

WHEREAS, PIPP is known to reduce shutoffs for non-payment for low-income households; and

WHEREAS, PIPP enrollment results in more consistent bill payment; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many Rhode Islanders to fall deeper into debt.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby endorses the enactment of a Percentage Income Payment Plan for the State of Rhode Island through legislation in the House of Representatives and the State Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Mayor of Providence, and the Providence Delegation.