

2021 -- H 5341

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

THANKING PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY LIBRARIES FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO
PROVIDING VITAL COMMUNITY SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Blazejewski, Kislak, Williams, Ajello, Filippi,
Lombardi, Shekarchi, and Fellela

Date Introduced: February 04, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Literacy skills are essential for effective participation in our democracy, in
2 the workplace, and in the community. Lady Bird Johnson once said, "Perhaps no place in any
3 community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is
4 interest"; and

5 WHEREAS, Providence Community Library was founded in 2009 and currently
6 encompasses locations in nine neighborhoods within the City of Providence, as well as the Big
7 Red Bus that travels to various schools in the City; and

8 WHEREAS, Serving a culturally rich and diverse population, Providence Community
9 Library has adapted to their patrons' "evolving reading and information needs with a diverse staff
10 that delivers relevant library resources and programs, cultivates meaningful partnerships and
11 promotes vibrant neighborhoods"; and

12 WHEREAS, Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Providence Community Library
13 has adopted creative strategies to support the Providence community through daily virtual
14 programming, free audiobook subscriptions, takeaway activity bags for youth, curbside book
15 pick-ups, printing services, and limited indoor browsing; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition, with the exception of Knight Memorial Library, which is being
17 renovated, the Providence Community Library locations have maintained regular scheduled hours
18 for essential services including free COVID-19 testing at Smith Hill Library; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite the uncertainty around COVID-19 guidelines and sources of

1 funding, Providence Community Libraries and staff members have persevered through these
2 challenges in order to support the communities they serve; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
4 thanks the administration and staff of Providence Community Library for their dedication to
5 providing vital community services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Cheryl Space, Library Director, Providence
8 Community Library.

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