

Lisa Turner

From: Jori Ketten <jori@thedesignoffice.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 10:02 PM
To: Office Manager Lisa Turner
Subject: I support the Public Street right-of-way in Providence

Dear Office Manager Turner,

Public access to the shoreline should be a priority! I support the designation of this right-of-way.

The Public St. location in Providence is an ideal candidate for CRMC designation. The street is currently a public right-of-way between Allen's Avenue and the Providence River.

Despite being one of the most densely populated areas in the state near the shore, relatively few locations exist where the public can access the water.

Currently, only 3 of CRMC's 226 designated rights-of-way to the shore are in Providence; (and those 3 are on the East Side along the Seekonk River.) There are no CRMC-designated rights-of-way in South Providence/Washington Park.

CRMC designation of the Public Street right-of-way will help CRMC achieve their goal of one right-of-way for each mile of Rhode Island coastline.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work to protect and expand public access to the shoreline.

Sincerely,

Jori Ketten
159 Sutton St
Providence, RI 02903
jori@thedesignoffice.org

Lisa Turner

From: Emelda Benitez <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 7:47 AM
To: Office Manager Lisa Turner
Subject: I support the Public Street right-of-way in Providence

Dear Office Manager Turner,

The Public St. location in Providence is an ideal candidate for CRMC designation. The street is currently a public right-of-way between Allen's Avenue and the Providence River.

Despite being one of the most densely populated areas in the state near the shore, relatively few locations exist where the public can access the water.

Currently, only 3 of CRMC's 226 designated rights-of-way to the shore are in Providence; (and those 3 are on the East Side along the Seekonk River.) There are no CRMC-designated rights-of-way in South Providence/Washington Park.

CRMC designation of the Public Street right-of-way will help CRMC achieve their goal of one right-of-way for each mile of Rhode Island coastline.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work to protect and expand public access to the shoreline.

Sincerely,

Emelda Benitez
61 Georgia Ave
Providence, RI 02905
emsoph1@yahoo.com

Lisa Turner

From: Jack McGillivray <jackmcgillivray2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Office Manager Lisa Turner
Subject: I support the Public Street right-of-way in Providence

Dear Office Manager Turner,

I recently helped clean up this site and it provides a much needed access to the bay in an environmentally deprived area not far from my house.

The Public St. location in Providence is an ideal candidate for CRMC designation. The street is currently a public right-of-way between Allen's Avenue and the Providence River.

Despite being one of the most densely populated areas in the state near the shore, relatively few locations exist where the public can access the water.

Currently, only 3 of CRMC's 226 designated rights-of-way to the shore are in Providence; (and those 3 are on the East Side along the Seekonk River.) There are no CRMC-designated rights-of-way in South Providence/Washington Park.

CRMC designation of the Public Street right-of-way will help CRMC achieve their goal of one right-of-way for each mile of Rhode Island coastline.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work to protect and expand public access to the shoreline.

Sincerely,

Jack McGillivray
139 Arnold Ave
Cranston, RI 02905
jackmcgillivray2@gmail.com



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

February 23, 2021

Mr. Jeff Willis
Executive Director
RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Re: Letter in Support of Public Street Right-of-Way (Providence)

Dear Mr. Willis:

This letter is in support of the City of Providence's request to formally designate the eastern end of Public Street in Providence, between Allens Avenue and the waterfront, as a CRMC recognized public right-of-way to the Providence waterfront. State designation of the site would formally recognize the location as a public waterfront access point.

The Public Street location has long been a public access point to Upper Narragansett Bay. Recent actions by private property owners have obstructed access to the site and limited the public's right to permanently enjoy the waterfront. Formalizing the designation of this site would allow the City of Providence and other partners to begin to explore next steps to further enhance this area for public access to the waterfront.

RIDEM encourages support of this the request because of its ability to provide much needed access to Narragansett Bay for Providence residents. Rhode Islanders in urban communities unfortunately have limited access to the benefits afforded by Narragansett Bay, like recreation and fishing, despite living in such close proximity to this treasured jewel. Until our lower income communities and communities of color have equitable access to spaces like those that exist at Public Street, Rhode Island is failing in its responsibilities to its residents.

We encourage CRMC to consider this request with the understanding that access to recreational opportunities and open space, especially at the waterfront, does wonders for the health and well-being of all Rhode Islanders, especially those long denied such resources. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janet Coit
Director



Kevin R. Cute
Marine Resources Specialist
Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Dear Mr. Cute,

I am writing to express support for Coastal Resources Management Council designation of the segment of Public Street in Providence east of Allens Avenue extending to its terminus at the waterfront as a State-recognized public right-of-way. The adjacent South Providence and Washington Park neighborhoods currently have extremely limited access to the waterfront.

This official designation would enable residents of this frontline community to enjoy open space, waterfront land, and a water view that is otherwise cut off by the industrial waterfront. The site has long been neglected and the right-of-way has been effectively privatized over time, most recently with the erection of a fence obstructing access to the eastern end of the right-of-way.

The Washington Park Association, founded in 2015, is dedicated to the improvement of quality of life in the Washington Park Community. We have been active in advocating for this public waterfront access and took part in a cleanup of the site in 2019 with more than 30 people participating on a cold blustery day, testament to community recognition of the importance of public access and stewardship of the environment.

We strongly encourage you to designate Public Street between Allens Avenue and the waterfront as a CRMC right-of-way to the waterfront. We also encourage CRMC to work with the City to establish a similar public access point to the waterfront near Oxford Street, east of Allens Avenue.

Sincerely,



Cc: Jeffrey M. Willis, Acting Executive Director, Coastal Resources Management Council
David Everett, Principal Planner, City of Providence



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

150 South Main Street • Providence, RI 02903
(401) 274-4400 • www.riag.ri.gov

Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General

October 14, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey Willis, Acting Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Re: Public Street Right-of-Way, Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Willis:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Providence's July 28, 2020, request to formally designate the eastern end of Public Street in Providence, between Allens Avenue and the waterfront, as an official CRMC recognized public right-of-way to the Providence waterfront.

The Public Street location historically has been a public access point to the Providence River and Upper Narragansett Bay. The City's tax maps depict the street, so-called "Public", as an unobstructed open roadway running to the water's edge. The Attorney General's review of title documents in the City's Land Evidence Records reveals that adjacent properties acknowledge and reference the "public" street. Members of the public already have accepted the dedication of this street as public through their long and continuous use as a point of access for fishing, boating and recreation along the Providence waterfront.

Unfortunately, the eastern end of Public Street adjacent to the Providence River has been neglected, and neighboring private properties have recently encroached and are now unlawfully obstructing this public right-of-way. An official CRMC designation would reinforce the acceptance of this street as public through official action and further protect the public's right to access and enjoy this waterfront access point permanently.

Public access to Rhode Island's coastal and waterfront resources is a priority mission of this Office, which like the CRMC is empowered to protect the public's rights and interests in accessing our State's coastal resources. But, it is not lost on me and should not be lost on CRMC that all too often when there is talk about the right to access our coastal amenities, usually it is in the context of walking along the shoreline or oceanfront access and not in urban settings. When balancing competing private interests and public access, more often than not, the scales do not tip in the favor of the



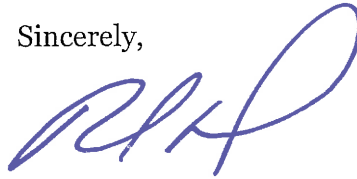
Mr. Jeffrey Willis, Acting Executive Director
October 14, 2020
Page Two

ordinary urban citizen. Until our lower income communities and our communities of color have equal access to open spaces, and have safe, clean and vibrant waterfront accessibility, we are failing in our duties to protect this most fundamental Rhode Island interest.

Thousands of Rhode Islanders who live in the South Providence and Washington Park neighborhoods have lost almost all public access to the shore and Narragansett Bay along Allens Avenue. The residents of these already over-burdened communities live only a short walk or bike ride from this area of the Providence waterfront, but they cannot access it or enjoy it.

There is sufficient evidence available for the CRMC right-of-way subcommittee to place the City's designation request on the subcommittee agenda and begin a hearing process as soon as possible. I strongly encourage the CRMC right-of-way subcommittee to prioritize this public access designation as an environmental justice matter entitled to expeditious review. Public Street should remain permanently and forever public.

Sincerely,



Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General

cc: Jennifer Cervenka, Esq., CRMC Council Chairwoman
Anthony DeSisto, Esq. CRMC Legal Counsel
Kevin R. Cute, CRMC Marine Resources Specialist
Jeffrey Dana, Solicitor, City of Providence
David Everett, Principal Planner, City of Providence





July 29, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey Willis, Acting Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Dear Mr. Willis,

We are writing in support of the City of Providence's request to designate the eastern end of Public St. in Providence as an official CRMC-recognized public right-of-way. As you know, public access is core to Save The Bay's (STB's) mission and one of its major priorities. Since its inception, STB has been dedicated to preserving and creating lateral access along the shoreline while instilling a sense of ownership and stewardship for all who use the Bay.

The Public Street location is an ideal candidate for designation. The street ends at the water's edge and currently provides relatively unobstructed access to the Providence River. Fishermen are frequently seen using the area in the summer.

Unfortunately, Public Street has historically been littered with trash and debris. This past November, Save The Bay and the Washington Park Association hosted a cleanup at Public Street. On a cold, blustery Saturday morning, more than 30 people spent several hours cleaning up along the water, sending a strong message that the community recognizes the importance of public access and the stewardship of our natural resources.

The adjacent South Providence and Washington Park neighborhoods currently have extremely limited access to the waterfront. This official designation would enable residents of this frontline community to enjoy open space, waterfront land, and a water view that is otherwise cut off by the industrial waterfront. The site has long been neglected and the right-of-way has been effectively privatized over time, most recently with the erection of a fence obstructing access to the eastern end of the right-of-way.

We strongly encourage you to designate Public Street between Allens Avenue and the waterfront as a CRMC right-of-way to the waterfront. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Topher Hamblett".

Topher Hamblett, Director of Advocacy

Cc: Kevin Cute, Coastal Resources Management Council
David Everett, Principal Planner, City of Providence



July 29th, 2020

Kevin R. Cute, Marine Resources Specialist
Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Rd.
Wakefield, RI 02879

Dear Mr. Cute:

I am writing to express support for Coastal Resources Management Council designation of the segment of Public Street in Providence east of Allens Avenue extending to its terminus at the waterfront as a State-recognized public right-of-way. The adjacent South Providence and Washington Park neighborhoods currently have extremely limited access to the waterfront. This official designation would enable residents of this frontline community to enjoy open space, waterfront land, and a water view that is otherwise cut off by the industrial waterfront. The site has long been neglected and the right-of-way has been effectively privatized over time, most recently with the erection of a fence obstructing access to the eastern end of the right-of-way.

The South Providence Neighborhood Association (SPNA), formed in December of 2015, is a non-partisan community organization that brings members of the South Providence community together to organize, inform and empower our local residents by facilitating meaningful dialogue as a way of fostering long-term partnerships. SPNA envisions a community that values inclusiveness, sustainability, awareness, investment, and active involvement in South Providence and where carefully planned social, economic, and physical development promotes a safe, multi-cultural, diverse, vibrant, and prosperous neighborhood. We joined the Washington Park Association (WPA) and Save the Bay in January of this year in advocating for this public waterfront access.

We strongly encourage you to designate Public Street between Allens Avenue and the waterfront as a CRMC right-of-way to the waterfront. We also encourage CRMC to work with the City to establish a similar public access point to the waterfront near Oxford Street, east of Allens Avenue.

Best regards,

Dwayne Keys, *Chairperson*
South Providence Neighborhood Association (SPNA)

Cc: Jeffrey M. Willis, Acting Executive Director, Coastal Resources Management Council
David Everett, Principal Planner, City of Providence

c/o Dwayne Keys. P.O. Box 5653. Providence, RI 02903. (401) 369-1334. southprovneighbors@gmail.com