

1 THE CITY OF CRANSTON

2
3 **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**
4 **OPPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PALLET HOUSING VILLAGES AT THE**
5 **PASTORE CENTER**

6
7 No.

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9 *Passed:*

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11 Christopher G. Paplauskas, Council President

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13 *Resolved, that*

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15 **WHEREAS**, Governor Daniel McKee and his administration are seeking to construct a village of
16 pallet housing for the homeless at the Pastore General Complex in Cranston; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the neighborhoods surrounding the Pastore Complex include residents of Garden City,
19 Garden Hills, Glen Hills, Oak Hill, Mayfield, and Dean Estates; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, these residents will be directly impacted by this new influx of homeless individuals
22 and the proliferation of this form of housing, which is more typically utilized to assist those
23 impacted by natural disasters rather than being used as permanent housing; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, the City of Cranston already hosts many state facilities and programs for the State of
26 Rhode Island which call for an increasing burden and demand on essential city services including
27 public safety personnel at a substantial cost to the taxpayers; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, there are many other municipalities in the State of Rhode Island that are equipped to
30 assist the State with this housing plan for the homeless as a host community; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, the needs and burdens of the State must be shared equitably throughout Rhode Island
33 and not imposed without consultation on the taxpayers and residents of Cranston or any other host
34 communities; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, while Rhode Island's homeless population is in need of a continuum of social services
37 from the State, the City of Cranston can no longer be the sole location to solve all the State's needs
38 and challenges in this effort; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, the Pastore Center is already home to the largest men's shelter in the state at
41 Harrington Hall for approximately 130 individuals including classified and dangerous sexual
42 offenders who already impact the streets and neighborhoods of our city; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, everyday numerous registered sex offenders engage in panhandling, interacting with
45 concerned residents, visit local liquor stores and congregate at covered bus stops while waiting for
46 Harrington Hall to reopen each night, and

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WHEREAS, on September 30, 2022 a deviant resident of Harrington Hall was arrested in the middle of the nearby Cranston Public Library while committing a lewd act while children and residents were using the facility; and

WHEREAS, the addition of “homeless villages” in Cranston would significantly increase the amount of registered sex offenders and homeless to an area that is already dangerously saturated; and

WHEREAS, for far too many years, the City of Cranston has been taken advantage of financially by the State as it continues to intensify its use of the Pastore Complex with no oversight or say from the City of Cranston while reducing funding to the City; and

WHEREAS, each day extensive public safety resources of fire and police are needed to respond to the various facilities and buildings at the Pastore Center draining the city financially and endangering the balance of city residents in their times of emergency and public safety needs; and

WHEREAS, Cranston is clearly overburdened with the demands being the host to a woefully disproportionate share of the state’s problems and institutional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island must immediately cease and desist any and all ideas, options, plans, or policies to construct any further housing for the homeless in the City of Cranston and explore alternatives for this pallet housing plan in one of the other thirty eight municipalities in the State.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cranston City Council does hereby call upon Governor Daniel McKee to publicly withdraw consideration of the Pastore General Complex as the host facility for pallet housing for the state’s homeless and urge the Administration to identify a more suitable location for such a project in another Rhode Island community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cranston City Council does hereby call upon the Cranston delegation to the General Assembly to submit legislation providing the City of Cranston a more equitable payment structure for the State of Rhode Island’s use of the Pastore Complex and provide the City of Cranston final approval of any additions or modifications to the State’s use of the Pastore Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution forthwith to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of Rhode Island, the members of the Cranston delegation to the General Assembly and the Director of the Office of Housing and Community Development.

Sponsored by: Councilman Reilly, Councilwoman Renzulli

Referred to Special Safety Services & Licenses Committee November 3, 2022