

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

CITY OF WARWICK



RHODE ISLAND

**SCOTT AVEDISIAN
MAYOR**

June 6, 2017

TO THE HONORABLE, JOSEPH J. SOLOMON, COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE WARWICK CITY COUNCIL:

I am transmitting to you PCR-70-17, as amended, with my signature. But I also avail myself of making comments relative to the upcoming Fiscal Year budget.

I am in agreement with the first two amendments made to the budget. As you all know, I presented these amendments on the first night of consideration of the city side of the budget. After these two amendments proposed by the administration, the Council then considered a total of thirty-six amendments and twice made statements about the collection rate. Some amendments were withdrawn (such as changes to an enterprise fund budget that the Council cannot change, and the federally-funded and mandated Community Development Block Grant program). In all, twenty-nine amendments were adopted, twenty-eight sponsored by Council Finance Chairman Edgar Ladouceur and one sponsored by Councilman Jeremy Rix. My comments will pertain to several of these amendments.

Twenty-five of the twenty-nine amendments passed unanimously. Being a political realist, I know that vetoing a budget and sending it back to a nine-to-zero Council of the other party would be futile. I am realistic enough to know that any veto would not be sustained. That being said, I remain very concerned about the effect of many of these amendments.

The cut of \$3 million proposed for the Warwick School Committee may certainly hamper mediation and the progress that has been made in resolving this long contract dispute. At the request of the Warwick Teachers Union and the Warwick School Committee, I joined mediation talks earlier this year. Just last week, significant progress was made. I am encouraged that the parties will meet again on Friday.

Make no mistake about it, I will be returning to the City Council in the future to ask for a special appropriation once mediation has brought forth an agreement.

Regarding the cut to the salary line item for the Director of the Warwick Public Library, I would remind Council members that you do not have the authority to do so. Chapter 29 of the Rhode Island General Laws (Free Public Libraries) states in relevant part:

29 -4-6 Powers and duties of trustees.

The trustees shall take possession of the library, and shall thereafter be the legal guardians and custodians of the library. They shall provide suitable rooms for the

library, arrange for the proper care off the library, choose one or more competent persons as librarians, and fix their compensations." (Emphasis added is mine.)

And relevant state law further states, in part:

29-4-7 Library funds.

All appropriations from the city or town and the state, and the income of all funds belonging to the library, shall be subject to the exclusive control of the trustees.
(Copies of the referenced state statues are attached.)

Long-term members of the City Council will undoubtedly remember my Veto Message of June 11, 2004, which made similar comments. (Veto Message is attached.)

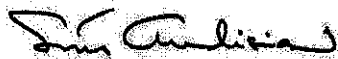
Similarly, cuts to salaries to individual employees are not an appropriate function of the Council. It is the exclusive authority of the Mayor to hire and compensate employees based on the Personnel Merit System rules and regulations. Accordingly, the Fire, Management Information System, Department of Public Works, and Department of Human Services budgets will operate under the total appropriation approved by the Council but will administer their total appropriation as they best see fit to operate their departments.

It is important to note that two amendments, one sponsored by Councilman Ladouceur and one sponsored by Councilman Rix, seem misdirected. While discussions seem to suggest that they intended to reduce salaries at the Pilgrim Senior Center, the Council actually voted to cut salaries contained in line item 46-101, which is the salary line item associated with the Department of Human Services.

Finally, state mandates that went into effect this past March require additional equipment on all fire apparatus, and a 20 percent reduction to this line item will not be sustainable. Additionally, cuts to budgets pertaining to lifeguards will not allow us to be compliant with DEM lifeguard staffing mandates, which may result in decreased hours of operation, beach closures or a combination of both. Cuts to the Cooper building programs will cripple efforts to fully utilize this asset.

I will continue to manage and run the City of Warwick, to the best of my ability, as Mayor, under the parameters of this budget.

Respectfully,



Scott Avedisian
Mayor

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

BOARD OF CANVASSEK
WARWICK, R.I.

CITY OF WARWICK



RHODE ISLAND 11 PM 4:38

SCOTT AVEDISIAN
MAYOR

11 June 2004

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY CLERK:

I am transmitting to you my specific vetoes of certain line items in PCR-92-04, As Amended, Resolution Adopting the Budget and Setting the Tax Rate of the City of Warwick for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004 and Ending June 30, 2005.

I do not take this action lightly. In fact, I am hesitant to do so as I know that the anger, rancor, and bitterness that have marked the past ten days will now only be prolonged and exacerbated. Nevertheless, several reductions have been made that I feel I must veto for the city's fiscal well being and for the quality of life for our residents.

There are many cuts that were enacted by the Honorable City Council with which I personally do not agree. Many, I feel, will undermine the ability of our employees to adequately perform their duties. Other reductions will hurt the frail and most vulnerable of our population. Reluctantly, and with the full belief that many of the Council's cuts will lead to grievances, arbitrations, and other actions, I accept the Council's budget with the following three line item vetoes.

First, I am vetoing the proposed draw down of an additional \$732,271 from the expected surplus in the current fiscal year. As I have previously explained to the Honorable Members of the City Council, this money was set aside to utilize in the event that the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education rules in favor of the Warwick School Department in its current dispute with the city. To take all of the current year's surplus and leave the city with no viable means of making good on an adverse decision is not good planning or good public policy.

Secondly, I must, in all good conscience, veto the changes made to line items 43-101, 43-222, 43-224, 43-228, and 43-332. These cuts, amounting to \$60,000 in funding for the Warwick Public Library, will cost this city approximately \$768,912 in the upcoming fiscal year. This is the "maintenance of effort" issue that both Library Director Doug Pearce and I spoke about during budget hearings. In addition to costing us this \$768,912

in allocations from the state, reducing funding for the Library will require the abolition of Sunday services and other important programs.

The third and final specific line item is in the capital budget, line item 79-799. The Council eliminated \$268,921 from the proposed budget that had been earmarked for roof repairs for the Thayer and Warburton ice arenas. Quite honestly, I feel it is being penny wise and pound foolish not to protect and preserve the million-dollar infrastructure investment that we have already made at the ice arenas. Therefore, I veto this change.

I realize that appropriate adjustments to the tax levy by the Tax Assessor and the Finance Director will need to be made to cover these restored line items if these vetoes are sustained.

There are many additional items in the educational, human services, and public safety budgets that I believe will be seriously harmed by the cuts that have been made by the Honorable City Council, but these are, Madame Clerk, the three specific reasons for my line item vetoes.

Respectfully transmitted,



Scott Avedisian
Mayor

Read For City Clerk
Gudy Wood

2004 JUN 11 PM 4:39

BOARD OF CANVASSERS
WARWICK, RI

Adjustments to FY 05 Proposed Budget

Revenue & Expense Items

TAX RATES REVISED

REVENUE Classifications	Proposed	Revised	
Residential	15.69	14.80	0.89
Commercial & Industrial	23.54	22.20	1.34
Tangible	31.38	29.60	1.78
Inventory	12.73	12.73	-
Motor Vehicle	34.60	34.60	-

Adjustments to FY 05 Proposed Budget

Revenue & Expense Items

Revenue

	Proposed by the Mayor	Revised by the Council
100-0310 Taxes	165,780,000	159,960,935
All other revenue sources	84,950,705	84,950,705

Adjustments

100-03690	Fund Balance Drawdown	732,271
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TOTAL Revenue	250,730,705	245,643,911
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Expense

Adjustments

		Line Item Adjustment	<u>Department Total</u>
11-101	Salaries	(2,077)	
11-403 Executive	Office Fund	(6,000)	<u>(8,077)</u>
12-360	Professional Services	(40,000)	
12-361 Legal	Airport Litigation	(13,346)	
12-361 Legal	Airport Litigation	13,346	<u>(40,000)</u>
13-203 City Clerk	Advertising	(1,628)	
13-354	Archive Project	(10,000)	<u>(11,628)</u>
15-106 Personnel	Overtime	(500)	
15-201	Office Supplies	(1,100)	
15-203	Advertising	(3,000)	
15-204	Dues & Subscriptions	(500)	
15-335	Medical Exams	(500)	
15-349	Random Tests	(1,000)	<u>(6,600)</u>
16-360 Legislative Department	Professional Services	(10,000)	<u>(10,000)</u>
17-495 Board of Canvassers	Primary Election Expense	(9,509)	<u>(9,509)</u>
18-101 Finance	Salary	(55,000)	
18-400	Contingency	(50,000)	
18-402 Finance	Inauguration Expense	(10,767)	
18-402 Finance	Inauguration Expense	(14,233)	<u>(130,000)</u>
19-101 Treasury	Salaries	(1,820)	
19-106	Overtime	(1,000)	
19-119	Salaries- Seasonal	(1,000)	
19-140	Temporary Services	(1,000)	
19-300	Travel	(100)	

Adjustments to FY 05 Proposed Budget

Revenue & Expense Items

19-301		Training & Education	(2,500)		<u>(7,420)</u>
22-101	Collector's	Salaries	(2,000)		
22-119		Salaries - Seasonal	(3,100)		
22-239		Supplies-Miscellaneous	(250)		
22-323		Tax Sale	(1,600)		
22-332		Security & Alarm SVC	(50)		
22-340		Service Contracts	(500)		
22-360		Professional Services	(4,000)		<u>(11,500)</u>
23-101	City Assessor	Salaries	(454)		
23-106		Overtime	(8,000)		
23-119		Salaries - Seasonal	(4,800)		
23-201		Office Supplies	(1,200)		
23-202		Print, Bind, & Reproducing	(200)		
23-203		Advertising	(100)		
23-204		Dues & Subscriptions	(100)		
23-220		Gasoline	(300)		<u>(15,154)</u>
24-101	Board of Assessment Review	Salaries	(338)		<u>(338)</u>
25-101	MIS	Salary	(21,500)		
25-303	MIS	Telephone	(23,791)		
25-303		Telephone	(24,000)		
25-334		Software Maintenance	(20,000)		<u>(89,291)</u>
26-106	Purchasing	Overtime	(500)		
26-201		Office Supplies & Equipment	(200)		
26-203		Advertising	(50)		
26-206		Stock/Inventory	(3,604)		
26-999		MiscDepartment Credits	3,604		<u>(750)</u>
27-101	Municipal Court	Salaries	(2,461)		
27-101	Municipal Court	Salaries	(6,000)		<u>(8,461)</u>
30-103		Salaries - Police II	(15,000)		
30-106	Police	Overtime Municipal	(10,000)		
30-109		Overtime Police II	(100,000)		
30-111		Details - VIN Inspection	(1,000)		
30-112		Special Details-City	(30,000)		
30-128		Overtime - Police Garage	(8,000)		
30-129		Overtime - Dispatcher	(10,000)		
30-140		Temporary Services	(5,000)		
30-201		Office Supplies & Equipment	(3,000)		
30-202		Print, Bind, & Reproducing	(8,000)		
30-211		Tires	(1,000)		
30-227		Supplies-Traffic Safety	(3,000)		
30-230		Community Police	(3,000)		
30-231		Supplies - Computer	(1,000)		

Adjustments to FY 05 Proposed Budget

Revenue & Expense Items

30-236	Supplies - Target Range	(2,500)	
30-238	Supplies - Dog Pound	(1,500)	
30-260	Misc Police Gear/Uniforms	(8,500)	
30-280	Building Maintenance	(2,000)	
30-301	Education Reimbursement	(4,000)	
30-302	Training & Education	(4,000)	
30-332	Community Services	(4,000)	
30-336	Supplies - Swat Team	(1,000)	
30-380	General Services	(1,000)	<u>(226,500)</u>
31-106	Org Crime & Drug Enforcement Overtime DEA	(4,500)	
31-108	Overtime DEA K-9	(1,500)	
31-109	Overtime FBI	(4,500)	
31-138	Overtime ATF Task Force	(2,500)	<u>(13,000)</u>
35-110	Fire Dept Overtime Fire I	(100,000)	
35-110	Fire Overtime Fire I	(400,000)	
35-111	Fire Overtime Fire II	(100,000)	
35-282	Fire Turnout Gear	(20,000)	
35-416	East Greenwich Fire Dept	(147,000)	
35-417	Hydrant Rental	(250,000)	<u>(1,017,000)</u>
36-101	Building Salaries	(12,000)	
36-201	Office Supplies	(700)	
36-271	Parts- communication	(400)	
36-300	Travel	(800)	
36-351	Demolition Services	(5,000)	<u>(18,900)</u>
38-110	Rescue Overtime Rescue I	(50,000)	
38-416	Rescue East Greenwich Fire Dept	(63,000)	<u>(113,000)</u>
39-201	Bd of Public Safety Office Supplies	(210)	
39-380	General Services	(1,000)	<u>(1,210)</u>
40-101	Parks & Recreation Salaries	(15,000)	
40-107	Parks & Recreation Salaries - Seasonal	(34,250)	
40-119	Parks & Recreation Salaries- Seasonal	(18,000)	
40-499	Contributive Support	(6,500)	<u>(73,750)</u>
41-222	Thayer & Warburton Arena Natural Gas	(4,000)	
41-224	Electricity	(4,000)	
41-331	Building Maintenance	(10,000)	<u>(18,000)</u>
42-119	McDermott Pool Salaries - Seasonal	(9,000)	
42-281	Maintenance Materials	(500)	
42-331	Building Maintenance	(2,000)	<u>(11,500)</u>
43-101	Library Salaries	(27,000)	
43-222	Natural Gas	(1,000)	
43-224	Electricity	(3,000)	
43-228	Books & Supplements	(25,000)	

Adjustments to FY 05 Proposed Budget

Revenue & Expense Items

43-332		Security & Alarm SVC	(4,000)		(60,000)
46-338	Human Services	Emergency Assistance	(1,000)		
46-355		Special Programs	(1,000)		
46-365		Counseling Services	(1,000)		
46-499		Contributive Support	(13,000)		(16,000)
47-101	Sr Citizen Centers	Salaries	(17,245)		
47-201		Office Supplies & Equipment	(300)		
47-281		Maintenance Materials	(500)		
47-288		Maintenance Equipment	(1,000)		
47-354		Dental Program	(2,000)		(21,045)
48-221	Senior Transportation	Diesel Fuel	(3,000)		
48-330		Auto & Vehicle Maintenance	(2,816)		(5,816)
51-201	Youth Programs	Office Supplies	(500)		
51-281		Maintenance Materials	(500)		
51-355		Special Programs	(2,500)		
51-365		Counseling Services	(4,000)		(7,500)
60-360	Planning	Professional Services	(4,000)		
60-360		Professional Service	(3,000)		
60-370		Warwick Station Redevelopme	(4,000)		
60-370	Planning	Warwick Station Redevelop	(6,000)		
60-395		Comprehensive Plan	14,000		
60-443		Air Quality Monitoring	(4,600)		(7,600)
61-201	Dep of Economic Development	Office Supplies & Equipment	(350)		
61-202		Print, Bind, & Reproducing	(50)		
61-204		Dues & Subscriptions	(1,000)		
61-353		Economic Development	(1,500)		
61-355		Tourism Programs	(4,500)		
61-357		Public/Private Partnership	(10,000)		(17,400)
62-106	DPW Admin	Overtime Municipal	(500)		
62-201		Office Supplies & Equipment	(300)		
62-203		Advertising	(500)		
62-231		Supplies - Computer	(250)		(1,550)
63-106	DPW - Hghy	Overtime Municipal	(10,000)		
63-227		Supplies - Traffic	(5,000)		
63-230		Drainage Pipe	(5,000)		
63-231		Gravel/Stone	(15,000)		
63-232		Drainage Blocks	(3,000)		
63-233		Curbing	(5,000)		
63-234		Frames/covers	(5,000)		
63-239		Supplies- Print Shop	(500)		
63-242		Chemicals weed Control	(1,000)		
63-248		Chemicals Calcium Chloride	(500)		

Adjustments to FY 05 Proposed Budget

Revenue & Expense Items

63-249	Chemicals Rodent Control	(250)	
63-260	Clothing	(1,000)	
63-275	Safety Equipment	(1,000)	
63-285	Small Tools	(2,000)	
63-291	Sand	(20,000)	
63-292 DPW Highway	Salt	(80,000)	
63-293	Road Resurfacing	36,000	
63-294	Tree Planting	(25,000)	
63-340	Service Contracts	(2,000)	
63-380	General Services	(250)	
63-393	Road Resurfacing	(36,000)	<u>(181,500)</u>
64-106 DPW Sanitation	Overtime	(5,000)	
64-107	Overtime Snow	(1,000)	
64-211	Tires	(5,000)	
64-330	Auto & Vehicle Maintenance	(2,000)	
64-394	Tipping Fee School	(3,000)	<u>(16,000)</u>
65-106 DPW - Auto	Overtime	(1,500)	
65-211	Tires	(10,000)	
65-215	Hardware	(500)	
65-250	Mechanical Parts	(5,000)	
65-270	Radio Parts	(1,000)	
65-284	Welding Materials	(1,000)	
65-311	Registrations	(500)	
65-314	Equipment Repair	(5,000)	
65-318	Tire Recapping	(5,000)	
65-333	Tire & tube maintenance	(500)	<u>(30,000)</u>
66-106	Overtime	(2,000)	
66-280	Building Supplies	(500)	
66-281	Maint building repairs	(1,000)	
66-331	Building Maint	(2,000)	
66-369	Renovation Projects	(5,000)	
66-389	Storage space	(6,600)	<u>(17,100)</u>
67-106 DPW - Engineering	Overtime	(500)	
67-201	Office supplies	(500)	
67-202	Print, Bind, & Reproducing	(200)	
67-204	Dues & Subscriptions	(850)	
67-224	Streetlighting	(30,000)	
67-228	Books & Supplements	(500)	
67-301	Training & Education	(500)	
67-360	Professional Services	(1,000)	<u>(34,050)</u>
75-161 Employee Benefits	Healthcare Police Retirees	(60,000)	
75-163	Healthcare Fire Retirees	(90,000)	<u>(150,000)</u>

Adjustments to FY 05 Proposed Budget

Revenue & Expense Items

76-327 Insurance	Deductible Payments	(20,000)	<u>(20,000)</u>
78-205 Postage	Postage	(2,500)	<u>(2,500)</u>
79-170 Fixed Costs	Worker's Compensation	(20,000)	
79-799	Capital Expense	(150,000)	
79-799	Capital Expense	(43,000)	
79-799 Fixed Costs	Assessors Copy machine	(4,000)	
79-799	Mis Personal Comp	(60,000)	
79-799	Fire Program Cars	(30,000)	
79-799	Fire Station Bol	(35,000)	
79-799	Building Program Cars	(15,000)	
79-799	Thayer Roof Repair	(268,921)	
79-799	DPW Vehicle Lift	(10,000)	
79-799	GPS Unit/Surve	(21,000)	<u>(656,921)</u>
82-201 Sewer Review Bd.	Office Supplies & Equipment	(112)	
82-205	Postage	(112)	<u>(224)</u>
89-000 School	Appropriation	(2,000,000)	<u>(2,000,000)</u>
TOTAL Expense	250,730,705	245,643,911	<u>(5,086,794)</u>