

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$28,000,000 TO OLNEYVILLE HOUSING CORPORATION (DBA ONE NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDERS), IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CROSSROADS RI, FOSTER FORWARD, AND FAMILY SERVICE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Britto, Lauria, Pearson, Euer, DiMario, Cano, Kallman, Murray, and Acosta

Date Introduced: May 15, 2023

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is experiencing a crisis as it relates to the availability and
2 production of affordable housing; and

3 WHEREAS, The National Low Income Housing Coalition reported that Rhode Island has
4 an availability shortage of 47,758 rental homes for those who earn up to 50 percent of the area
5 median income (AMI); and

6 WHEREAS, Addressing Rhode Island's affordable housing crisis will require a
7 collaborative approach from nonprofit organizations, local, state, and federal government, and
8 private philanthropy; and

9 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's coordinated entry system for those experiencing
10 homelessness stands at a record 1,395 individuals and families in need of affordable housing; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has struggled to provide adequate resources for affordable
12 housing for youth aging out of foster care and DCYF; and

13 WHEREAS, ONE Neighborhood Builders, Crossroads RI, Foster Forward, and Family
14 Service of Rhode Island, all Rhode Island based 501c3 not-for-profit organizations and
15 hereinafter referred to as "The Collaborative", have formed an historic partnership to help address
16 Rhode Island's housing crisis; and

17 WHEREAS, The Collaborative has secured site control of a 3 acre property located at
18 330, 350, and 354 Taunton Avenue in East Providence, Rhode Island, and has developed a plan to
19 build 160 units of affordable housing that will serve -- amongst other residents -- youth aging out

1 of foster care and DCYF supervision, families who are at risk of or are involved with DCYF due
2 to a lack of affordable housing, backlogged applicants to the coordinated entry system for the
3 homeless, and low- to moderate-income individuals and families; and

4 WHEREAS, The Collaborative will construct an early learning center on the ground-
5 floor and will lease the space to a qualified nonprofit operator, thereby providing more families
6 access to high-quality childcare; and

7 WHEREAS, This significant development will make an immediate impact on the supply
8 of affordable housing in Rhode Island, particularly for some of Rhode Island's most vulnerable
9 populations; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
11 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the sum of twenty eight million dollars
12 (\$28,000,000) to Olneyville Housing Corporation (dba ONE Neighborhood Builders), in
13 partnership with Crossroads RI, Foster Forward, and Family Service of Rhode Island, to develop
14 the property located at 330, 350, and 354 Taunton Avenue in East Providence into 160 urgently
15 needed affordable apartments; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw
16 his orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from
17 time to time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

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- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$28,000,000 to
- 2 Olneyville Housing Corporation (dba ONE Neighborhood Builders), in partnership with
- 3 Crossroads RI, Foster Forward, and Family Service of Rhode Island.

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