

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

CHAPTER 896

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
APPROPRIATING UP TO \$1,000,000 FOR THE FORMER OLDHAM SCHOOL
BUILDING ON BULLOCKS POINT AVENUE

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION I. An appropriation not to exceed \$1,000,000 to be funded from Federal ARPA funds to be used for a roof, windows, doors, and a feasibility study to convert the former Oldham School building into a business incubator.

SECTION II. This ordinance shall take effect upon its second passage and all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Given first passage 8/15/23 and referred to 8/29/23 at 6:30 p.m. for a hearing and consideration of final passage and adopted 8/29/23.

Attest:

Jill Sepp
City Clerk of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island

Introduced by: Councilman Lawson

VETO
I HEREBY DISAPPROVE AND VETO
[Signature]
MAYOR
DATE: 9/7/2023

**IN CITY
COUNCIL**

FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

[Signature]
PRESIDENT

CLERK

9-12-23

4-1
over

Council President Rodericks		✓
--------------------------------	--	---

2. Council consideration of mayor's message of disapproval and veto of appropriation of ARPA funds for the former Oldham school, as passed by the City Council on August 15, 2023 entitled "An ordinance of the council of the City of East Providence appropriating up to \$1,000,000 for the former **Oldham school building on Bullocks Point Avenue.**" *possible vote to override- City Council*

Member	Aye	Nay
Councilman Fogarty	✓	
Councilman Lawson (3)	✓	
Council Vice President Rego	✓	
Councilwoman Sousa (1)	✓	
Council President Rodericks		✓

4-1

3. Council consideration of mayor's message of disapproval and veto of appropriation of ARPA funds for the Pierce Field football stadium, as passed by the City Council on August 15, 2023 entitled "An ordinance of the council of the City of East Providence appropriating up to \$550,000 to replace the walking track at Pierce Field football stadium." *possible vote to override- City Council*

Member	Aye	Nay
Councilman Fogarty (3)	✓	
Councilman Lawson	✓	
Council Vice President Rego	✓	
Councilwoman Sousa (1)	✓	
Council President Rodericks		✓

4-1

4. Council consideration of mayor's message of disapproval and veto of appropriation of ARPA funds for a splashpad in Riverside, as passed by the City Council on August 15, 2023 entitled "An ordinance of the council of the City of East Providence appropriating up to \$200,000 for a splash pad in Riverside." *possible vote to override- City Council*

Member	Aye	Nay
Councilman Fogarty	✓	
Councilman Lawson (3)	✓	
Council Vice President Rego	✓	
Councilwoman Sousa (1)	✓	
Council President Rodericks	✓	4-1

5-0



City of East Providence
Office of the Mayor
Roberto L. DaSilva

Sept. 7, 2023

Ms. Jill Seppa
East Providence City Clerk
145 Taunton Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914

Re: Veto

Dear Madam Clerk,

Attached please find ordinance of Chapter 896 of the Council of the City of East Providence appropriating up to \$1,000,000 for the former Oldham School building on Bullocks Point Avenue, as adopted by the City Council on August 29, 2023, which I am returning to you having exercised my mayoral veto.

As required by the City Charter, I am enclosing my Message of Disapproval.

Prior to my submission, I have conferred with various members of the City Council.

Sincerely,

Roberto L. DaSilva
Mayor

CC: East Providence City Council



City of East Providence
Office of the Mayor
Roberto L. DaSilva

Sept. 7, 2023

Bob Rodericks
Council President
East Providence City Council
145 Taunton Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914

RE: Message of Disapproval

Dear Council President Rodericks and Members of the Council,

In accordance with Article III, section 3-6(b) I am returning to the City Council Chapter 896, "An Ordinance of the Council of the City of East Providence Appropriating Up to \$1,000,000. For The Former Oldham School Building On Bullocks Point Avenue."

The Ordinance seeks to appropriate \$1 million dollars to be used for the roof, windows, and doors, and a feasibility study to convert the former Oldham School Building into a business incubator.

As you know, the City Council recently retook possession of the subject school from the East Providence School Department. The Administration recently issued a request for proposal seeking qualified potential developers to propose development ideas for this now defunct school.

The Administration believes it is premature to appropriate any ARPA monies for repairs or upkeep of the school which could be borne by a developer without the use of any public monies. The Administration is also aware of multiple funding sources to include historic tax credits, affordable housing tax credits, and potential grant funding opportunities that could be leveraged to make the desired updates to this building at no cost to the taxpayers of the City of East Providence while preserving ARPA funds for much needed improvements throughout the City. Furthermore, the \$1 million is being allocated without proper due diligence and without properly vetting the cost of repairs to this facility.


The Administration is committed to making sure that the building remains secure and stable while it is no longer in active use. In addition, the City is in the process of applying for an economic development grant that, if awarded, could be used in place of the appropriation already made. Prior to locking up one-time ARPA funds, the City Council should be certain that alternative funding sources have been exhausted.

By passing an ordinance prior to the necessary preliminary information or basic due diligence, the City has lost the necessary flexibility to use these funds, if necessary, for projects that have previously been properly vetted, undergone internal review, as well as final approval by the City Council. Additionally, as the Council is aware, these ARPA funds have a strict timeline and by sequestering these funds through an ordinance, the City is at risk of having to return the funds and also unable to use these funds to leverage future opportunities.

Per ARPA regulations, all monies allocated must be encumbered by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Without even a basic idea of how much any repairs may cost, the City risks the forfeiture of these funds if it is unable to meet these deadlines or before a comprehensive development plan is in place.

With these concerns in mind, I respectfully disapprove of this Ordinance and urge the City Council to sustain my veto to allow for a more thorough and collaborative process that protects the interests of its residents and ensure the wise expenditure of public funds

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roberto L. DaSilva', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roberto L. DaSilva
Mayor