



CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

2023-24 Term

2023-24 COUNCIL GOALS

● HOUSING

Improve the accessibility of housing for year-round residents by cracking down on illegal short term rentals, modernizing city regulations, and pursuing the development of new housing.

● PUBLIC SAFETY

Focus on enforcement of noise, parking and speeding infractions. Increase community presence and engagement.

● PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Develop the City's next strategic plan and improve resources and procedures that help increase accountability.

● INFRASTRUCTURE

Pursue plans and funding mechanisms for improvements in transportation, resiliency and broadband infrastructure.

● EDUCATION

Work with the school committee to develop a leading modern learning system, with a strategic plan for 2030.

● ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Develop a clear plan and timeline for the development of the North End, including the former Casino Property and Navy Hospital.

● On Schedule

● Room for Improvement

● Needs attention



HOUSING

CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL SHORT TERM RENTALS (“STRs”)

- ✓ **Publish map of registered STRs** – completed 2/24.
- ✓ **Increase registration fees to cover cost of enforcement**
- **Levy a 2% impact fee on STRs** – Passed resolution supporting enabling state legislation. State legislation did not pass.
- **Tax STRs as commercial properties** – resolution supporting enabling state legislation passed 5/1. . State legislation did not pass.

MODERNIZE REGULATIONS

- **Update residential zoning** – resolution calling for resourcing and plan by 6/30 passed 2/8.
- **Policy for Accessory Dwelling Units in appropriate zones** – resolution calling for draft policy by 6/30 passed 2/8.

DEVELOP MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING

- **Identify vacant parcels suitable for housing** – resolution for inventory by 6/30 passed 2/8.
- **Develop Coggeshall School as housing** – resolution for final proposals by 6/30 passed 2/8.
- **Pursuit of state funding for housing** – Ongoing meetings with State Housing Secretary and RI Housing.



INFRASTRUCTURE

PLANNING

- **5-Year Capital Improvement Plan** – Approved 3/8/2023. Reviewing 1/31/2024.
- ✓ **Adopt Master Transit Plan** – Resolution adopting plan adopted 4/12.
- **[Update] Comprehensive Resiliency Plan**

FUNDING

- ✓ **Hire grant coordinator to assist with pursuit of federal infrastructure and resiliency funding**
- **Coordinate pursuit of federal funding** - Applications for Congressionally Directed Spending and Inflation Reduction Act funds submitted.
- **Utilize state funding resources** – Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) actively engaged. RIIB CEO presented at 5/12 Council meeting.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

- ✓ **Accelerate improvements** – doubled repaving budget and secured state matching funds.
- **Implement traffic calming measures** – Hillside Avenue improvements underway, and requests for changes to Admiral Kalbfus presented to state traffic commission.

Parking

- ✓ **Improve resident access** – 2 hours of free resident parking at all meters enacted. Beach season parking extended by ~ 3 months.

BROADBAND

- **Improve broadband speeds and access** – consultant engaged to coordinate island-wide regional application for federal funding.



PUBLIC SAFETY

RENEW COMMUNITY POLICING

- **Increase foot and bike patrols** – officers now spend time each shift on foot and bike patrols have resumed.
- **Increase hiring and retention** – recruitment underway, utilizing incentives and considering lateral transfers.

ADDRESS TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

- **Improve ordinances regarding motor vehicle noise to be more enforceable** – resolution calling for plan passed 1/11, with ordinance passed 4/26.
- **Increase use of technology to assist with speed violations** – speed camera trial complete and RFP is open.

IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✓ **Publish Annual Report** – Newport Police Department Annual Report published 3/24.
- **Improve Community Engagement** – participation by NPD and four council members at 3/30 Off Broadway Neighborhood Association meeting on homelessness.
- ✓ **Hire new police chief** – search process completed, including interviews by a professional and diverse panel of current and former state police and chiefs and public forum (6/1).



PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC PLAN

- ✓ **Identify short term council priorities** – workshop held 1/4.
- **Coordinate with State Legislators** – Met with state delegation on 2/18/2023 and State House liaison assigned from Council (Third Ward Councilor David Carlin). Upcoming meeting 1/3/2024.
- **Develop Strategic Plan via public process** – consultant selected and process is underway, for expected completion by Spring 2024.

MANAGEMENT

- **Conduct annual review of City Manager** – City Manager Search underway. Application period closes 1/15.

✓ DASHBOARD

- Create and maintain dashboard for City Council priorities** – Presented at 1/10 meeting.

EDUCATION

2030 PLAN

- **Make education a Council priority.** Work with School Committee to develop long term plan.
- **Constitutional Right to Education** - Resolution passed in support of House legislation supporting.

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMMING

- ✓ **Establish plan and provide resources to support extracurricular programming** – State funding secured and afterschool programs launched December. Newport received second highest award of Learn 365 RI grant monies.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOP NEXT PHASE OF PLAN FOR NORTH END:

- **Identify DOT plans for property disposition** – Mayor and City Manager met with Director of DOT to request timeline.
- **Identify key hurdles to property acquisition and site prep** - Ad Hoc Advisory Commission of experts appointed 10/25 and now meeting monthly.
- **Establish process for Community Development Agreements**
- **Provide resourcing to support development of North End**

NAVY HOSPITAL PROPERTY

- **Proceed with acquisition of Navy Hospital Property** – Negotiations ongoing.

