



CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL

Special Council Meeting Minutes

Daniel R. Wall, President, Ward 6
Kristen E. Haroian, Vice-President, Ward 2
Emilia Vaziri, City-Wide
Richard D. Campopiano, City-Wide
Christopher E. Buonanno, City-Wide

Bridget R. Graziano, Ward 1
Andy M. Andujar, Ward 3
Frank J. Ritz, Jr., Ward 4
Michael A. Traficante, Ward 5

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026 at 7:15 P.M.

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held in the **Cranston City Council Chambers, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910** for the purpose of considering the following items listed on the agenda. Remote participation was offered.

[YouTube Livestream](#)

The meeting was live streamed on YouTube. Click the link below to view the meeting.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtE9vwA1B1PQHuftrNPcZjg>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by Council President Wall. He announced Clerk Nelson was clerking the meeting remotely. Director Renzulli will call the rolls. He thanked her.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Communications Director Nicole Renzulli. Members stated as present: Council President Wall, Council Vice-President Haroian, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilman Campopiano, Councilman Buonanno, Councilwoman Graziano, Councilman Andujar and Councilman Ritz. Absent: Councilman Traficante. Also present: Asst. Solicitor Verdecchia, Communications Director Renzulli, and City Clerk Tracy Nelson (via Zoom).

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – DOCKETED ITEMS

Jonathan Francis, President of Firefighters Local Union 1363 spoke on behalf of the membership to support the appointment of Richard Mancini as Chief of the Cranston Fire Department due to his leadership and commitment to the department and the city.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Council President Wall turned the floor over to Councilman Andujar as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

*Report from the Chair, Councilman Andujar, on the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** meeting held May 4, 2026: (votes may be taken)*

***ADVICE AND CONSENT** of Mayor's appointment of Richard Mancini as Fire Chief
(votes may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

MOTION made by Council Vice-President Haroian, SECONDED by Councilwoman Graziano to approve Mayor Hopkin's appointment of Richard Mancini as Fire Chief.

Discussion:

Director Renzulli spoke on behalf of Mayor Ken Hopkins to present the nomination of Assistant Chief Richard Mancini as Fire Chief following the retirement of Chief Daniel Marcinko. Asst. Chief Mancini has risen through the ranks of the department over the last thirty years. That experience gives him a deep understanding of fire operations, emergency response, personnel management, and department regulations. On behalf of Mayor Hopkins, she respectfully requests the Council give Advice and Consent.

Each Council member present took a moment to give accolades to Asst. Chief Mancini and express support of his nomination. They congratulated him and wished him luck.

Asst. Chief Mancini thanked the Council.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote of the members present.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS

The following items of new business are listed for reference and for a vote to be referred to the appropriate Council sub-committee for a public hearing. The Council President may calucel for a motion to consider one or more of the new business items as a block:

RESOLUTION of the Cranston City Council In Support of House Bill 2026-H 8483 by Representative Joseph McNamara and Forthcoming Senate Companion Legislation by Senator Lammis Vargas; Sponosored by Councilwoman Graziano; to be referred to Ordinance Committee June 3, 2026 (votes may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

Atty. Matthew Jerzyk, 88 Woodbury Rd, Cranston thanked Councilwoman Graziano for her leadership. He provided the Senate Bill number, S-3288. He explained there is a one hundred year old prohibition era law that establishments within 200ft of a church or school cannot even apply for a liquor license in any city or town in RI. The State House allows the city to be exempt from that rule by putting in legislation and a Council resolution. All that does is allow the applicant to open the door and come back to Council to apply. He introduced Al D'Andrea, the new owner of 1814 Broad St. in Edgewood, the location formerly known as Daily Mart.

Alfred D'Andrea, 100 Spring Valley Dr., East Greenwich is the founder of The Edgewood Group, acquiring and managing properties in Edgewood for about the last ten years. He was fortunate enough to get Seven Stars Bakery to move into the vacant former bank building last year. He recently acquired the former convenience store. He envisions bringing in a low-key upscale pizzeria to keep up the momentum from Seven Stars and increase walkability in the

neighborhood. He has had a casual, informal conversation with Ken Scarborough, who he believes is the pastor. He seemed excited and open to the idea.

At the recommendation of Asst. Solicitor Verdecchia, Council President Wall deferred any further discussion to the night of the ordinance committee hearing on June 3, 2026.

MOTION made by Councilwoman Graziano, SECONDED by Council Vice-President Haroian to refer the resolution to the Ordinance Committee. MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote of the members present.

VI. ADJOURNMENT *(Vote may be taken)*

MOTION made by Councilman Andujar, SECONDED by Council Vice-President Haroian to adjourn at 7:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy A. Nelson, City Clerk