

**City of Providence/ Waste Management  
Hospitality Resource Partnership**

**Executive Summary**

In 2005, the Downtown Providence Management District was formed by downtown Providence property owners, to retain and attract new business and investment. This Downtown Improvement District (DID) has experienced the full support of Mayor David N. Cicilline and has led to the creation of a Hospitality Resource Partnership (HRP) in 2006, to make the city cleaner, safer, more welcoming and vibrant. Our business partner - Waste Management - is a critical part of that success.

With Providence earning national recognition for its thriving arts & culture - while experiencing dramatic new development - we needed to ensure peaceful co-existence, a place where people would want to socialize. The HRP has helped make significant inroads on overcrowding in nightclubs, underage drinking, over-serving of customers, patron behavior, and handling of traffic flow issues. Waste Management has provided the tools to keep the city clean and attractive -inviting visitors -taking part in community clean-up events; providing manpower and equipment to collect tons of debris in vacant lots/ city streets in preparation for and in the aftermath of major events; supplying recycling containers for downtown public events – promoting environmental awareness and opportunities to recycle, and supporting major events such as college move-out week, to quickly remove debris and protect the downtown.

The businesses within an 81-block area of downtown Providence contribute to the Improvement District for increased services –street/ sidewalk cleaning, trash removal, motorist/ pedestrian assistance. As Director of Public Space Frank P. LaTorre says, “We discuss issues and knock down barriers.” With a concentration of high occupancy nightlife establishments and live/ DJ entertainment and plenty of students and visitors, the incidence of noise, disruption, overcrowding, assaults, injuries, dangerous and underage drinking was

abundant. This quality-of-life issue became a top priority for Mayor Cicilline and the DID. The Responsible Hospitality Institute of Santa Cruz, Calif., was invited to Providence ([www.rhiweb.org](http://www.rhiweb.org)) to conduct a preliminary assessment and work with four, primary stakeholders– hospitality, safety, development and community. They made recommendations on closing time, traffic handling, mixed-age entertainment venues, education & enforcement of laws, and supervision of parking lots.

Mayor Cicilline announced the Hospitality Resource Partnership (HRP,) in January 2007, consisting of residents, restaurants, nightclub establishments, and law enforcement and security officials with “the expressed goal of creating a more safe and vibrant arts and cultural environment downtown.” In this city, where the arts are a \$111.8m industry, the HRP becomes a crucial partner in our economic development.

A Roving Detail of 10 police officers was created, and in late spring, piloted. From 11 pm to 2am, officers patrolled parking lots and streets for public drinking and disorderly conduct. At 2 am, officers handled traffic control and monitored DUI matters, stationed at key locations and in visible, marked cars. The \$9,300 pilot was paid for by the Mayor’s Substance Abuse Prevention Council, the DID, residents and clubs. As a result of their work, 1,064 parking tickets; 23 citations/ summons for loud music; 11 arrests/ summons for underage drinking; 4 arrests for DUI; 12 arrests for disorderly conduct; 3 narcotics’ arrests; 3 felony arrests; 9 other arrests were made. They also helped save the life of an off-duty RI State Trooper who was criminally assaulted. The 19 full-time staff that works 18 hours a day, 365 days a year, augmented that work.

A thriving hospitality and arts’ industry; improved quality of life downtown; safe, clean and well-lit streets, and welcoming environment are benchmarks of success for the HRP, and a model for other communities.

We are proud to be among the first in the nation in such a partnership and coalition.