



PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY

100 BROAD STREET
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June 3, 2025

Alexis Thompson

Secretary

City of Providence

Zoning Board of Review

Hi Alexis,

Discussions with Narragansett Electric / National Grid regarding the proposed renovation and rebuild of the power plant at 325 Chad Brown Street date back to around 2019. Prior to the onset of the pandemic, there were several informational and planning meetings during which various concerns—including fencing and landscaping—were raised.

One issue that continues to be of particular concern is the plan to install a 9-foot fence topped with three strands of barbed wire, without any significant plantings to mitigate its appearance. While I fully recognize and support the need for appropriate security measures at the facility, the current design raises serious concerns from a community perspective.

A fence of this scale and character, especially in the absence of meaningful landscaping, creates a stark, institutional appearance. Given the persistent stigma surrounding public housing, such a design risks reinforcing negative perceptions and contributing to the further marginalization of our residents. It evokes the appearance of a correctional facility more than that of a residential neighborhood.

Additionally, the overall condition of the surrounding area remains a concern. The current Chair of the PHA Board has placed particular emphasis on reducing blight and enhancing the quality of life for residents in this community.

We respectfully urge that the fencing and landscaping plans be revisited with greater consideration for their visual and social impact. Enhancing the aesthetic integration of the facility into the neighborhood will go a long way toward fostering community pride and improving perceptions of the area.

Best regards,

Mark A. Theroux

Associate Director

Facilities Management

Providence Housing Authority

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