

## **Resolution No. 23**

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Resolutions**

**Re: Censure Reversal of Joseph M. Polisena, Mayor of the Town of Johnston, Rhode Island**

1           WHEREAS, Joseph M. Polisena was appointed  
2           to the Johnston Fire Department on January 15, 1975  
3           and had been a member of Local 1950, International  
4           Association of Fire Fighters, until his retirement on  
5           June 30, 1996; and

6           WHEREAS, Joseph M. Polisena is currently the  
7           Mayor of the Town Johnston, Rhode Island and has  
8           been serving in that capacity since January 2007; and

9           WHEREAS, Mayor Polisena and Local 1950,  
10          International Association of Fire Fighters  
11          experienced strained labor relations during his first  
12          mayoral term; and

13          WHEREAS, due to the strained labor relations,  
14          the International Association of Fire Fighters  
15          censured Mayor Polisena at the 50th International  
16          Association of Fire Fighters Convention in 2010; and

17          WHEREAS, subsequently, after the 2010  
18          censure, Mayor Polisena and Local 1950,  
19          International Association of Fire Fighters have  
20          endeavored to reconcile the strained labor relations  
21          that existed; and

22          WHEREAS, Mayor Polisena has demonstrated  
23          his commitment to improving labor relations by  
24          negotiating and settling multiple, multi-year  
25          collective bargaining agreements; and

26          WHEREAS, Mayor Polisena has negotiated a  
27          funding improvement plan that has secured pension  
28          benefits for active and retired members, as well as

29 improved the fiscal stability of the Town of Johnston;  
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Mayor Polisena has negotiated  
32 improvements to the healthcare plans for both active  
33 and retired members, while also securing fiscal  
34 stability for the Town of Johnston; and

35 WHEREAS, Mayor Polisena has supported  
36 increased funding levels within the fire department,  
37 which enhances the safety of the fire fighters and  
38 citizens within the Town of Johnston; and

39 WHEREAS, Mayor Polisena has made it a  
40 priority to invest in the infrastructure of the fire  
41 department with the building of a new fire station  
42 and a plan of continuous replacement of fire  
43 apparatus and equipment for the safety of fire  
44 fighters and for the enhancement of services to the  
45 community; and

46 WHEREAS, Mayor Polisena has also positively  
47 impacted public safety within the entire State of  
48 Rhode Island by serving on the Rhode Island  
49 Ambulance Service Advisory Board, where he is a  
50 staunch advocate for high quality fire based,  
51 emergency medical services; and

52 WHEREAS, Mayor Polisena has been an  
53 outspoken political supporter of legislation and laws  
54 that protect the health, safety and working rights of  
55 fire fighters, emergency medical technicians and  
56 emergency dispatchers at local and state levels; and

57 WHEREAS, due to the reconciliation of labor  
58 relations with Mayor Polisena, along with his above-  
59 cited historical record of support, it is hereby  
60 requested that the International Association of Fire  
61 Fighters remove the 2010 censure placed on Mayor

62 Polisena; therefore be it  
63 RESOLVED, That the International Association  
64 of Fire Fighters, formally reverse and remove the  
65 2010 censure of Mayor Joseph M. Polisena; and be it  
66 further  
67 RESOLVED, That the International Association  
68 of Fire Fighters notify Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, all  
69 locals within the International Association of Fire  
70 Fighters and the Rhode Island State Association of  
71 Fire Fighters and its affiliates, regarding this  
72 resolution.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 1950, Johnston Fire Fighters  
Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters,  
A-38 & All Affiliated Locals

Cost Estimate: None

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**CONVENTION ACTION:**