

MAYOR VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.

Vincent "Buddy" Cianci, Jr. graduated from Moses Brown School and earned his bachelor's degree of Government at Fairfield University. He pursued his masters in Political Science at Villanova University and his Doctorate of Jurisprudence at Marquette University Law School. He served in the United States Army from 1966-1969 and was a 1st Lieutenant in the Military Police Corp. In 1969, Buddy was appointed Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island and was an instructor of Political Science at Bryant University. He served as a prosecutor for the Organized Crime Unit until 1974 when he resigned to run for Mayor of Providence.

Buddy was elected mayor six times and voted "America's Most Innovative Mayor" by the Association of Government Officials. Buddy served as Mayor for 21 years and became Providence's longest sitting mayor and America's longest serving mayor of a city over 100,000 in population. During Buddy's tenure, Providence dramatically changed from a boarded-up lackluster city to being named by *Money Magazine* as the "Best City in which to live in the East" and one of America's top five urban centers.

Buddy was instrumental in revitalizing the downtown area. Through his vision and leadership, the River Relocation Project uncovered and redirected three bodies of water to form the award winning Water Place Park, which hosts Barnaby Evan's nationally heralded, 'Waterfire'. Providence's downtown renaissance attracted major construction projects, upscale hotels, the Providence Place Mall, a high end shopping center, and even a hockey team, the Providence Bruins. The Rhode Island Convention Center along with the newly refurbished Dunkin Donuts Center serves as a top destination for tourists, conventions and world-class competitions.

In 1976, Buddy secured federal funds for a major upgrade of Roger Williams Park and Zoo. That served as the catalyst for future projects which transformed the outdated venue into the first New England zoo to be accredited by the American Zoological Association.

The city's revitalization extended to the neighborhoods with new schools, recreational facilities and beautification projects. Buddy secured federal funds to assist home buyers with ownership opportunities. A new Providence Public Safety Complex was built and police sub stations were established to create safer neighborhoods. Buddy was recognized nationally for his creation of a gun court.

The former mayor was also a staunch supporter of preserving Providence's historic landscape and was recognized by the League of American Theaters for his efforts to save and restore the Providence Performing Arts Center. The Providence Preservation Society honored the former mayor as one of the top fifty people who influenced the city's effort for historic preservation.

Buddy was always a champion of the arts. He helped establish America's first Art's District where artists' works were designated tax exempt. This Artist District was emulated throughout the United States.

Buddy is active on the lecture circuit and was the keynote speaker at various colleges, universities and civic organizations. He served on many boards including Rhode School of Design, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence Public Library, Women & Infants Hospital

He hosts his weekday talk show, "The Buddy Cianci Show", on 630 WPRO-AM and 99.7-FM. Since returning to the airwaves, *Rhode Island Monthly* readers have voted Buddy the "Best Radio Talk Show Host" in 2008 2009 & 2010. Buddy also shares his insights and unparalleled witty analysis of Rhode Island's issues as the chief political commentator on ABC-6, WLNE-TV Providence, RI. Nationally, Buddy is a regular guest on the Fox network nationally syndicated *Hannity Show*. He has also appeared on numerous other nationally syndicated radio and television shows.

Former Mayor of Providence Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. otherwise known as "Buddy" is now the subject of a New York Times bestseller. In March 2011 Buddy will be on a book tour discussing his own memoir *Politics and Pasta*. This book is full of surprising stories and outrageous anecdotes. *Politics and Pasta* is already receiving great reviews and is the most candid (and easily the funniest) political memoir in a generation from one of the nation's most talked-about mayors.

Buddy Cianci's legacy has forever been woven into the tapestry of Providence's history. He has often said that his greatest accomplishment is more than fixing crumbling sidewalks or moving rivers, his greatest accomplishment is the raising the self-esteem of the City of Providence.