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Newsroom: Horwitz Addresses Rally for Homeless 09/15/2016

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Providence Journal

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Newsroom

September 15, 2016

Horwitz Addresses Rally for Homeless

RWU Law Professor Andy Horwitz spoke Wednesday at a rally in Providence, calling on officials to stop "criminalizing" the homeless, including panhandlers.

From the PROVIDENCE JOURNAL: "[With protesters chanting outside, Paolino announces plan for Kennedy Plaza](#)" by Amanda Milkovits, Journal Staff Writer



PROVIDENCE, R.I., Sep 14, 2016 — Kennedy Plaza may be the city's historic public gathering place, but there are competing visions for the people who congregate here.

Former Mayor Joseph Paolino Jr., the new chairman of the Downtown Improvement District, says he has suggestions to clean up Kennedy Plaza and help the needy, including an ordinance against roadside panhandling, funding for social workers and jobs to panhandlers, and help lobbying for millions in state funding to provide housing.

But as he spoke about his plan in a meeting Wednesday, chants of "Whose city? Our city!" rang out in the halls at the Convention Center. [...]

Andy Horwitz, director of the Criminal Defense Clinic at Roger Williams University School of Law, and Eric Hirsch, a Providence College professor and government relations chairman of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, accused Paolino of "criminalizing" the homeless. "It's the whole idea that we need to clean up Kennedy Plaza to move people along who don't look the way we want," Hirsch said. [...]