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SPORTS, 1B

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Carla DeStefano, executive director of the nonprofit developer SWAP, holds a rendering of the new income-restricted apartment building at Westminster and Knight streets in Providence. PHOTOS BY DAVID DELPOIO/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

## CCRI, RIC opt to arm campus officers

### Move comes despite unease among students

**Jack Perry**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the aftermath of mass shootings at Brown University and the Dennis M. Lynch Arena, the presidents of Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island have decided that their campus police officers need to carry guns.

The two state schools were given the OK to start the process during a Wednesday, April 15, meeting of the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education, despite hearing from several students and a teachers union representative who spoke against arming campus police.

The move comes with bills pending in the Rhode Island House and Senate that would mandate the arming of campus police at public colleges, including RIC and CCRI. Legislative committees held hearings on the bills in recent weeks, and while public testimony included support, there was also some strongly worded opposition.

Although the state allows its public colleges to arm their campus police, current law leaves the decision to the schools. Until now, RIC and CCRI

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# Affordable by design

## How a nonprofit repurposed a West End apartment project

**Wheeler Cowperthwaite**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

At the corner of Knight and Westminster streets in Providence's West End, steel beams mark the start of the second floor on what will be an income-restricted housing project with a shop on the first floor.

The \$21-million project by nonprofit developer SWAP has been in the works for years, first approved by city officials in 2022 as a market-rate apartment complex. West End residents likely know the site by the adjoining property, a hole in the ground that until recently was adorned with a few brick walls.

Construction on the site broke ground in 2025 and is expected to last 18 to 19 months. The plan is to start having people move in by May 2027. The site changed its official address from 321 Knight St. to 1077 Westminster St. on April 24.

While the inside of the oddly shaped building was completely redesigned, the unit count, 41, stayed the same. SWAP's executive director, Carla DeStefano, said the residential unit count originally approved was a hard cap, and they had to keep the exterior look of the



Construction of a new income-restricted apartment building is underway at the corner of Westminster and Knight streets in Providence.

building the same.

At the site, the air is filled with the sounds of saws, generators, nail guns and trucks transferring building supplies from the parking lot that serves Ogie's Trailer Park and an adjacent mill building.

On the second floor, a smooth, finished layer of concrete has already set

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**"The interest rates were at 3, 3.5%, and then they went to 8%. That's a deal-killer for an apartment complex."**

**Carla DeStefano**  
SWAP executive director

## RWU president to retire after 7 years at helm

**Jack Perry**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Roger Williams University President Ioannis Miaoulis will retire at the conclusion of the academic year on May 31, Roger Williams University announced Tuesday, April 21.

"This decision comes from a deeply personal place. I believe it is best for my well-being and, just as importantly, best for the university,"

Miaoulis said in a press release. "This is the right moment for RWU to begin its next chapter, building on the mo-

See **RWU**, Page 7A



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