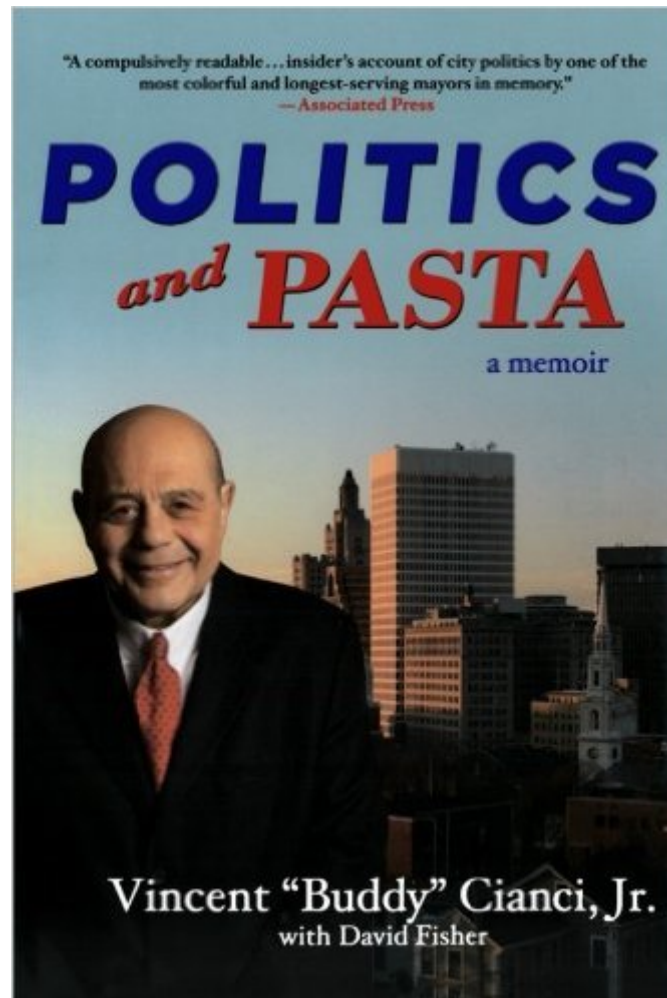


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Politics And Pasta: A Memoir



Synopsis

An election is a war and "to the victor belongs the spoils." As I learned so well, that's the real democratic process. After all, you'll never see a victorious politician tell his supporters, "I want to thank all of you who worked so hard for my election. However, in the interest of good government, I've decided to give all the jobs to those people who voted against me." My name is Buddy Cianci. I spent almost three decades as mayor of Providence...before leaving for an enforced vacation in a federally funded gated community. When I first took office, Providence was a dying industrial city, and I helped turn it into one of the most desirable places to live in America. I did it by playing the game of hardball politics as well as it has ever been played. My favorite Frank Sinatra lyric is "I did it my way," because that's the only way a mayor can run a city. As I used to tell my staff, "When you spend your weekends kissing elderly women with mustaches, you can make the decisions." If you want to know the truth about how politics is played, you picked the right book. This is the behind-the-locked-door story of how politics in America really works. It's take me a lifetime of successes and failures to write it. It's all in these pages. I have been called many things in my career: I've been "America's Most Innovative Mayor," a "colorful character," and a convicted felon. But no one has ever called me shy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

He came out of nowhere in 1974 to become the first Republican mayor of the city Providence, R.I. in more than four decades. He had spent time as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode

Island prosecuting criminal and organized crime cases. Before long he was hobnobbing with President Gerald Ford at the White House and was viewed by many political pundits as a rising star in the Republican Party. Yes, the sky appeared to be the limit for the savvy young man from Providence. He was bright, articulate, ambitious, energetic, personable and a man of great vision. But he certainly had his work cut out for him. When 33 year old Vincent "Buddy" Cianci was sworn in as mayor in January 1975 the city of Providence was a pretty dreary place. Retail was dying and the biggest hotel in town was about to be shuttered. Furthermore, there was absolutely nothing going on after hours and if you dared take a stroll on the deserted streets of the city at night there was a pretty good chance you would be accosted. The truth is that most of us had pretty much given up on the city but the brash young "Buddy" Cianci firmly believed that he was the right man at the right time to turn it all around. In "Politics and Pasta: How I Prosecuted Mobsters, Rebuilt A Dying City, Dined With Sinatra, Spent Five Years In A Federal Funded Gated Community, and Lived To Tell The Tale" Vincent "Buddy" Cianci tells his remarkable life story in his own words. For those of us who have been following his rollercoaster career from the outset it is a compelling story indeed. Now to understand what a breath of fresh air "Buddy" Cianci was around here you have to know a little bit about the history of the city. For decades Providence had been run by the entrenched Democratic political machine.

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