

City of Lawrence, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR Michael J. Sullivan

May 9, 2008

Edward Janeczak, President
Laborers Local 175
55 Union Street
Methuen, MA 01844

Dear Mr. Janeczak,

Several months ago, the City of Lawrence suffered through the tragic loss of a young man from a devastating car accident. On that weekend, when the majority of us were mourning this horrible occurrence, it appears that Mr. Michael Gagliardi, Business Manager Local 175, chose to play politics with such a tragic event. Mr. Gagliardi, according to the Lawrence Police Department's investigation, spread false and reckless rumors that there was underage drinking at my residence and that the young man who suffered the accident was at my home on the night in question. Several individuals were questioned by the Lawrence Police Department and subsequently blamed each other for starting the rumor. The Lawrence police concluded very quickly that this accusation was completely false and maliciously concocted.

In April, I received a letter from Mr. Gagliardi, which I assumed would be an apology for his role in this farce. Instead, the letter states, "*We can no longer afford to allow past tenuous relationships to become a hurdle...*". Mr. Gagliardi's false allegations have created these hurdles. The letter did not mention the false accusation and seemed to imply that I have a strained relationship with the Union. Let me state for the record that nothing could be further from the truth. Over the last seven years as the City of Lawrence went through a renaissance of over a quarter of a billion dollars of both public and private investment, many union members clearly benefitted and were part of this renaissance.

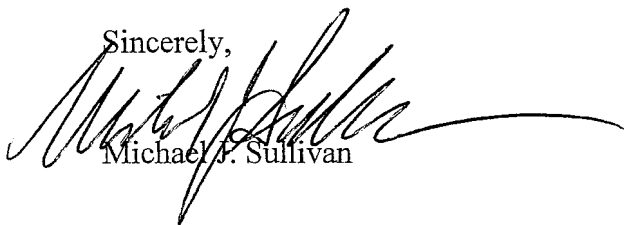
I find no fault with the hard working members of the Union. In fact, I believe these worker's have been a key part of the revitalization of the City of Lawrence during the last seven years. I do fault Mr. Gagliardi and others mentioned in the investigation for their involvement in such a reckless and irresponsible scheme.

I have met with my attorney about the possibility of filing a defamation suit against Mr. Gagliardi and those involved. Although I feel strongly that I would win such a case, I was also advised that such a suit would likely require depositions and statements from the young man's family. I simply will not put the family or friends of the young man through any such ordeal.

In public life, I've gotten used to differences of opinion on policy matters, on spending priorities and department appointments. I've always hoped that personal accusations, especially ones that are totally fabricated, would not be on anyone's agenda. I have, during my tenure as mayor, always stayed away from personal accusations because at the end of the day it accomplishes nothing. Sadly, I can not say the same for Michael Gagliardi and others mentioned in the Lawrence Police Department's report. A level of immaturity and insensitivity was demonstrated during a very tragic and emotional time that is truly appalling and should have no place in public life.

In closing, I personally find it nearly impossible to work shoulder to shoulder with Michael Gagliardi of the Laborers' Local 175 at this point in time. Please feel free to call if you have questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Sullivan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Sullivan

cc: David Peluso, Vice President,
Armand Sabitoni, Chairman, New England Laborers' Training Trust Fund
Vincent Masino, Vice Chairman, New England Laborers' Training Trust Fund
George Noel, Director of Labor, Department of Labor
Frederick Carberry, Executive Director, Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board
Joseph Bevilacqua, President/CEO, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce