

Fundraiser Invitation – Declined

To City Council President Giattino,

Your insulting tone-deaf invitation to your fundraiser is unbelievable. I demand that you remove me from your fundraising list immediately. I want nothing to do with your re-election campaign!

The audacity of your hypocrisy to solicit funds from a Hoboken city official who has twice warned you to stay away from the HHA is reprehensible. You write, “As many of you know the hardest thing for me to do is ask for money but campaigns cost money.” No, Council President Giattino; “the hardest thing” for you to do is signing the Integrity Pledge.

In fact, of the 12 candidates who received the Integrity Pledge all 7 of the challengers have signed, but not one of the 5 incumbent city council members signed the pledge. As City Council President you are setting a terrible example for your council colleagues. In response to my last letter, Ward 3 Council candidate Mr. Ron Bautista set a better example when he quickly and enthusiastically returned a signed pledge. In stark contrast, you asked me to attend today’s fundraiser. Thank you for sending such a clear message to all Hoboken voters that you place money ahead of election integrity.

Furthermore, how dare you ask me for anything after everything you have done to me? And, after all that you and your political hacks have done to harm the HHA! Have you no sense of shame? I demand that you immediately stop soliciting donations from me or any other employee of the city of Hoboken. City employees and unpaid volunteers deserve to be free from political interference and coercion.

Your uncaring insensitive treatment is unworthy of the sacrifice that I have made to protect the HHA and the City of Hoboken. Do not mistake my silence as weakness or fear of your political machine. Honoring my duty to the HHA and safeguarding the City of Hoboken has kept me quiet. For the past 3 years, I have carried a burden that you, the City Council, and your political hacks have placed upon me. And, yet, you have the brazenness to ask me for a donation?

No more. Your fundraising letter and refusal to sign the Integrity Pledge are the last straws. You and your colleagues will no longer benefit from my discretion. I stand ready to meet the City Council at the October 2nd, 2019 regularly scheduled public meeting. Matters relating to my employment and service as an HHA Commissioner will be discussed. Therefore, in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act; I demand a Rice Notice from the Hoboken City Council and that the public be allowed to attend. I will not attend without a Rice Notice. For our elections to work, the public has a right to know. I will submit to be judged by them; will you?

Regards,

James Sanford
Vice Chair
Hoboken Housing Authority