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***AFSCME* LOCAL 696 – D.C.33**
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March 22, 2013

Honorable Ron Marsico
4401 Linglestown Road, Suite B
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

On November 19, 2012 an interim report was submitted to the Honorable Gary S. Glazer of the Philadelphia Traffic Court describing the conduct of those employed by the said court system. This report focused on misconduct and gives very little support to the men and women who have been dedicated to the integrity and service of the daily operation of the Philadelphia Traffic Court.

Today I speak on behalf of those Bargaining Unit Members of Local 696 of the Philadelphia Traffic Court. Members who have been caught in the middle of the indiscretions of others not having a voice in this process. They want you to know that everyone was not a part of the culture described within this report. The few bargaining unit members that were cited within this report felt as though they were only following protocol. They were employed at the right place but at the wrong time.

Given the situation I would have thought that some members would no doubt at this time wish that they were employed at another facility. But every member I spoke with could only speak of the dedication, loyalty and experience they have been a part of with the Philadelphia Traffic Court. They expressed how deeply their lives would be affected if this landmark no longer existed. The inappropriate judicial conduct of judges and some bargaining unit members who participated in special consideration should not shadow the dedication and hard work of the majority.

Just like the established standards of conduct for the minor judiciary resulted in a court with two-tract system of justice, one for the politically connected and another for the unwitting general public existed; there are facts that must be separated as well. The majority of our members had no knowledge or connection to politically or favorably considerations.

"Philadelphia Works Because We Do"

Those bargaining unit members whose names appeared in the Chadwick report that participated in the special consideration process were used. They had no power to initiate or conduct any special considerations. Some members who were reluctant to fully cooperate with the interviewers of Chadwick was due to the fear of their names appearing and coworkers with whom they work gaining knowledge of their testimony if the report became publicized. Seeing this report in the hands of other employees justifies their concern(s). In addition, there were also concerns about retaliation and fear of employment. I would like to focus your attention to a section in the report:

Chadwick Report 11/9/2012

Judge Hogeland said that, beginning in approximately 2008, he came to believe that special consideration was wrong and decided he would no longer participate in the practice. Shortly thereafter, he received a request from Judge DeAngelis and he went to her and told her that he would not give special consideration any longer. According to Judge Hogeland, Judge DeAngelis stood up, beat her hands on the table, and said, "I want you to understand. This is Philadelphia. This is the way to do things. I want to you to get with the game plan.

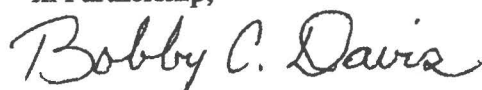
If Judge Hogeland was met with this type of hostility; it is with understanding why our members felt that they had to be in compliance with the request of their employers.

In closing I applaud and support the 14 points to restore integrity. I have met with the members of my bargaining unit and we have pledged to work in solidarity in support of restoring and rebuilding the integrity as a staple for which the Philadelphia Traffic Court will stand for.

As we all look forward to serve, it is with hope that you realize the loyalty and dedication that each bargaining unit member represents. Members who understands and recognizes the important of not allowing the Philadelphia Traffic Court to go back to the way it was.

As President of Local 696, I will work with the Administration so that at the end of the day my members are still employed with all their employment and union benefits remaining intact.

In Partnership,



Bobby C. Davis, Vice President
AFSCME District Council 33
President Local 696

CC: Committee

Honorable Gary S. Glazier

