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**June 24, 2024**

To: Mark Stankiewicz  
Finance Director  
City of Pawtucket  
137 Roosevelt Avenue, Room 203  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

From: William J. Conley, Jr., Esq.  
Legal Counsel for Pawtucket School Department

**Re: Unlawful Interference with School Department Fiscal Matters**

Director Stankiewicz,

Our office has been directed to follow up with you, as the Finance Director for the City of Pawtucket, given your lack of a substantive response to the letter that Superintendent Royal sent to you on June 19, 2024. Hopefully, this letter clarifies any confusion you may have on the issues raised by Superintendent Royal, as you indicated in your June 21, 2024 email response.

Under your direction, the City Finance Department has engaged in a pattern of behavior that has frustrated administrative functions that are statutorily vested in the Superintendent of Schools, subject to the direction of the School Committee. The City Finance Department has repeatedly withheld funds, delayed monetary transactions, and limited the access of the Pawtucket School Department (PSD) to the Municipal Uniform Information System (MUNIS) required for the day-to-day financial operations of PSD.

Most recently the City Finance Department unilaterally truncated PSD's FY24 fiscal year without authority by imposing a hard deadline of June 12, 2024 for all purchase requisition requests. Despite PSD's effort to work with this deadline, the City Finance Department intentionally deleted approximately 36 properly uploaded purchase requisitions without warning. Moreover, the City Finance Department thereafter continued to limit PSD access to MUNIS. These actions have caused PSD to waste time, effort and resources, and have also exposed PSD to possible legal and financial liabilities.

Please be advised that the City Finance Department has a limited statutory role, on behalf of the City of Pawtucket, as defined by Chapter 2 of Title 16 of Rhode Island General laws. **The City Finance Department does not have the authority to approve, cancel or delete budget transfers, purchase requisitions, or any other financial transactions made by PSD, through the Superintendent of Schools, or her designee.** Pursuant to R.I.G.L. §§ 16-2-9 and 16-2-11, only Superintendent Roayal, or her designee is statutorily authorized to make all such actions, and only the Pawtucket School Committee is statutorily authorized to supervise such transactions.

If corrective action is not taken immediately by the City Finance Department, any further interference in the financial affairs of PSD in violation of Title 16 will force PSD to take appropriate legal action.

Respectfully,



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William J. Conley, Jr. Esq.

CC: The Office of Mayor Donald R. Grebien; and  
The Pawtucket City Council; and  
The Pawtucket School Committee; and  
Superintendent Patricia Royal