

From: Bill Wolfe <bill_wolfe@comcast.net>
Date: April 1, 2008 11:41:30 AM EDT
To: irene.kropp@dep.state.nj.us
Cc: lisa.jackson@dep.state.nj.us
Subject: Fwd: Clifton Board of Education meeting

Dear Assistant Commissioner Kropp:

On March 12, 2008 (with a copy to you - see below) I wrote Commissioner Jackson to request that she cancel a scheduled meeting with the Clifton School Board regarding the Department's ongoing technical review of the proposed new school site due to the potential appearance of political intervention.

Although I never received a reply to this request, I understand that the Commissioner's meeting was cancelled. Please correct me if that understanding is mistaken.

Community members interpreted that meeting cancellation as an indication that the Department was sensitive to the issues of appearances regarding the integrity of the review process, and had agreed with their assessment that such a meeting - under the circumstances - would be inappropriate.

I am therefore deeply disturbed to have just been informed that you met recently with Assemblyman Giblin to discuss the case. Please correct me if I am misinformed.

As you know, I submitted comments on March 27, 2008 based upon a file review. However, my initial OPRA request (#65570) has not been responded to adequately and my March 27, 2008 supplemental request for information has not been responded to at all. I must now expand that filing to include records regarding the Assemblyman Giblin meeting and communications.

In the interim, could you provide minutes of that meeting, e.g. issues discussed or resolved, agreements reached, et al ?

Could you also clarify in writing the Department's policies and procedures regarding meetings with elected officials and lobbyists regarding cases pending review?

I appreciate your timely and favorable response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Bill Wolfe, Director
NJ PEER
609-397-8213

From: Bill Wolfe [mailto:bill_wolfe@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 4:33 PM
To: 'Lisa Jackson'
Cc: 'Irene.Kropp@dep.state.nj.us'
Subject: Clifton Board of Education meeting

Dear Commissioner Jackson – I recently was approached by community members in Clifton who have concerns regarding this case and asked to provide assistance. I offered to file an OPRA request and conduct a file review. I've been told that Senator Gill has intervened in this case. Under these circumstances, I believe the Commissioner of the Department should not meet with the Clifton School Board during the Department's technical review of the March 4, 2008 submission of a proposed consolidated PA/SI/RI/RAW. However, in the event that the Department chooses to meet with the District, concerned members of the community and their own selected representatives should be allowed to attend and participate. Anything less creates an appearance of bias and/or political intervention in the Department's technical review. Please see below request.

Bill Wolfe

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 2:54 PM
To: bill_wolfe@comcast.net
Subject:

340 Dwas Line Road
Clifton, NJ 07012

VIA FACSIMILE
609 292-7695

March 12, 2008

Ms. Lisa Jackson
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street – 7th Floor – East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Re: 290 Brighton Road, Clifton, NJ 07012

Dear Ms. Jackson:

It is our understanding that the Clifton Board of Education has scheduled a meeting with you to discuss the proposed high school annex at 290 Brighton Road. I am formally requesting that members of the Clifton community (including myself, Keith Bestford and Jim Daley) along with Bill Wolfe from NJ Peer be included in this meeting.

Please confirm the date and time of this meeting so that we may adjust our schedules accordingly.

Sincerely,

Mary Sadrakula

cc: Clifton Board of Education
Anthony Barbary, Interim Sup't. of Schools (fax) 973 470-8561
Marie Hakim, President BOE (fax) 973 470-8561
Keith Bestford
Jim Daley
Bill Wolfe
Senator Nia Gill (fax) 973 509-9241