

-----Original Message-----

From: crmcneilly@aol.com
To: Luke.Ravenstahl@city.pittsburgh.pa.us
Sent: Fri, 6 Oct 2006 1:17 PM
Subject: Public Safety Director Appointment

Mayor Ravenstahl,

Forgive me for yet "another email intrusion." I'm sure you're getting tired of these by now!

However, I have some serious concerns about your appointment of Mr. Dennis Regan to the position of "Public Safety Director," and I am obligated (to my officers and the public) to make my concerns known.

In all fairness to you ~ I'd like to explain to you ~ as briefly as possible ~ why I'll be objecting to his appointment. You may/or may not be aware of some things I will divulge ~ and when they come up with respect to allowing Mr. Regan to "act in disciplinary matters in police operations as they pertain to discipline against an officer as Public Safety Director" ~ at least you'll be prepared to answer them. And I can almost promise that someone will question you . . .there are already "rumblings."

I'm certain that you know that Mr. Regan shares a residence with Ms. Marlene Cassidy. Ms. Cassidy

is the sister of an officer who has been employed by the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police since July 3, 1993 by the name of Francis Rende.

During the fourteen years of his employment, Officer Rende has been charged with disciplinary action numerous times for a host of charges. Countless complaints have been filed against him. His personnel file is voluminous - but he is **most infamously** know throughtout this Bureau for three things:

- o The rape of a complainant in 1997 for which he was terminated - only to be reinstated by an arbitrator.
- o The **extraordinary** hours of "secondary employment" details he has been known to work.
- o His relationship to Mr. Dennis Regan by way of his sister.

In June of this year, I served a Discipline Action Report (DAR) on Officer Rende because on at least 37 occasions during the past 4 years, Officer Rende used sick days and then worked secondary employment details either a few hours before calling off sick or a few hours after calling back on. When I was able to document an established pattern of behavior that violated the Sick Leave Policy of the Bureau of Police, I subsequently filed a DAR Officer Rende charging him with violations of the Sick Leave Policy as well as Incompetency, Conduct Unbecoming an Officer, Neglect of Duty and Obedience to Orders and Laws

By August 2006, I was not told of the status regarding the serving of this report. When I inquired as to the status of the DAR, I was told it had been "forwarded through the chain of command." The morning following my inquiry, Mr. Dennis Regan appeared at Zone 1 Station (unannounced) asking for me ~ but I was at a Command Staff Meeting, so Mr. Regan left.

I was then told that my DAR was subsequently "withdrawn" (without my consultation or input ~ not usual protocol).

Your Honor, Officer Rende is presently assigned to the Investigative Branch and enjoys "detective" status and pay. His position sends *quite* a message Bureau-wide. Personally, I am insulted that he is assigned to such a prestigious position when I know that there are many hard-working officers who would be much more derserving of such an oppotunity.

This is just **one** reason why I will be objecting to this appointment. I do not believe that Mr. Regan has the capacity to act unbiasedly or fairly when it comes to disciplinary matters against our officers if he holds the position of "Public Safety Director."

The position of "Public Safety Director" can carry a frightening amount power ~ I don't know how much thought has been given to "unintended impacts" that may result from his taking the helm of such a powerful department.

At any rate, as I've already said, you will be questioned about the connection between Mr. Regan, Ms. Cassidy and Officer Rende. The media has already outlined the jobs that have been given to Ms. Cassidy's children under the late Mayor. They have repeatedly asked questions to different members of the police command staff about Officer Rende's status.

I am attaching a copy of the DAR I served on Officer Rende in June so you will see the pattern of his behavior over the past four years. I trust that ~ as an administrator and public official who answers to his constituents ~ you will be appalled by what you'll read. If you ARE offended, then the next question you should ask yourself is, "Do I really want Dennis Regan ultimately deciding this man's disciplinary fate?"

As I said at the start of this email, I am obligated to voice my objection to his appointment. As such, my intentions are to send an email voicing my concerns about the relationship between Mr. Regan, Ms. Cassidy and Officer Rende and the further negative impact it will have on the Bureau of Police.

I merely wanted you to have a few days "advance notice" of what I would be sending them so that at least you might be prepared to answer any questions that may result.

I'm sorry if this causes you any grief; sometimes, doing what you believe in your heart to be the "right thing" can come with consequences!

Cathy McNeilly

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