

DONALD SCARINCI | Partner
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September 22, 2014

Monica M. Tone
Interim Executive County Superintendent
Hudson County
595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Dear Ms. Tone:

I am the Corporation Counsel for the Town of West New York and I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to ask for your assistance. The Superintendent of Schools of West New York, John Fauta, is refusing to provide transportation for school children, which has resulted in significant public safety concerns for the Town of West New York.

As I am sure you are aware, Superintendent Fauta has temporarily closed an elementary school and opened a substitute facility some distance from it. The new facility requires children as young as Kindergarten age to walk an additional eight to ten blocks to reach their classrooms.

While the Town of West New York has redeployed crossing guards and added extra police to the areas around the route, many of the parents say that this is not enough and have requested bussing for their children. Superintendent Fauta has refused to bus these children.

After hearing the complaints and concerns of parents of the young children involved, the Mayor and Commissioners agree that there are legitimate safety concerns resulting in this school closing. It is clear that Superintendent Fauta did not fully consider the risks to children when he made the decision to close the school.

Accordingly, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners sent a letter to the Superintendent. The Mayor addressed this issue in person at a Board of Education meeting on or about September 11, 2014. The Commissioners ultimately adopted a resolution in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.2, at the September 17, 2014 Commission Meeting which authorizes my office to negotiate a shared services agreement with the Board of Education to provide a solution to this problem.

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Unfortunately, Superintendent Fauta continues to refuse to provide bussing. Instead, Mr. Fauta has responded to the City's offer of assistance with an accusation that the City is "meddling" in the administration of the School District and has once again threatened to report the City Commissioners to the Department of Education as he has in the past. Superintendent Fauta's assertion of City interference with school administration once again is false.

The City has repeatedly acknowledged that the decision to provide school bussing is the Superintendent's sole decision to make. However, as Superintendent Fauta's false accusations in the past have painted the City in a false and negative light to the Department of Education, we wish to avoid the same thing from happening again.

We respectfully request that your office intercede in this matter and assist the City and Superintendent Fauta, to develop a satisfactory plan that will protect the safety of our residents.

Very truly yours,



Donald Scarinci

DS/hr

Cc: Mayor Felix Roque
Commissioner Frias
Commissioner Rodriguez
Commissioner Wiley
Commissioner Vargas
Superintendent John Fauta
Board of Education Members