

Bipartisan Committee of Review

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

1:00 PM IN Room 1A of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m. by Chairman, Sen. Roraback A. S30.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: DeFronzo D. S06; Guglielmo A. S35; Looney M. S11; Nickerson W. S36; Roraback A. S30; Stillman A. S20

Senator Roraback stated that the committee's request for a 15-day extension was granted by the Senate leaders. This extension moves the committee deadline to November 11th.

A motion was made by Senator Guglielmo and seconded by Senator Stillman to approve the October 15th committee meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Senator Looney reviewed the (1) October 24, 2007 affidavit and answers to additional questions Senator DeLuca submitted to the committee and (2) Chief O'Leary's October 30 affidavit responding to comments Senator DeLuca made at the October 15th committee meeting. Senator Roraback reported that Chief O'Leary, at the committee's request provided a copy of the Waterbury Police Department's investigation of a domestic violence complaint involving Casey Colella. The Department asked that the committee treat the investigation report confidentially. The committee wrote a letter to the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) on October 31 requesting guidance on the request to keep the report confidential. Colleen Murphy, FOIC's executive director and general counsel, in response to the committee's request, stated the report is public information. Consequently, the report was released. Committee members discussed their concerns about the conflict between Senator DeLuca's and Chief O'Leary's sworn statements and decided the Chief State's Attorney's Office should handle it.

A motion was made by Senator Nickerson and seconded by Senator Guglielmo that it was not the committee's charge to say who did what and who was committing perjury, so the matter should be turned over to the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Attorney Sandra Norman-Eady updated the committee on the status of the request made to the U.S. Attorney's Office. The committee is still waiting for a response.

The committee discussed the factual predicates for the committee's resolution. Senator Roraback stated that the committee should work with the staff to compile the information. He asked committee members to submit their proposals for the resolution by 4 p.m. on Friday, November 2 to Attorney Sandra Norman-Eady. Senator Nickerson

indicated that the committee should proceed by putting together a chain of events for the next meeting. Senator Nickerson stated that the facts to be included in the resolution should include:

1. Senator DeLuca's guilty plea
2. The lie Senator DeLuca told during the first FBI interview
3. Senator DeLuca's failure to report a bribe
4. Senator DeLuca's offer to use his office to help Mr. Galante
5. Senator DeLuca's statement under oath that he had nothing to hide, but refused to honor the committee's request for a tape or other recording or his conversation with the under cover agent.

Senator Stillman indicated that she wanted to add another item to the list:

- An issue of violation of public trust (Senator DeLuca's duty to uphold that trust).

Senator Roraback stated the facts should also include the fact that:

- Senator DeLuca brought dishonor on his office and the institution
- The Senate has never been called on to discipline one of its members
- The people of the 32nd District elected Senator DeLuca to a 2-year term

Senator DeFronzo stated the facts should further include:

- The nature of the conversations in the arrest warrant affidavit
- The relationship between Senator DeLuca and James Galante
- A timeline of people and events

Senator Looney stated the facts should include that:

- Senator DeLuca's admission that he went to see Galante because he was on the fringes of organized crime

Senator Guglielmo stated the facts should include that:

- The framers of the constitution created a system whereby electors vote out of office people they no longer want to represent them

Senator Roraback asked if the resolution should include things that did not happen.

Senator Nickerson responded, stating that all facts supporting the resolution's conclusion, including mitigating and aggravating factor, should be included.

Senator DeFronzo stated that the following three elements should be present for disciplinary action:

- Legal status of the conduct
- Relationship to public office
- Erosion of public trust

Senator Stillman stated that resolution should serve as a blueprint of everything before the committee

Attorneys Norman-Eady, Towson, and Reinhart reviewed the precedent state and federal standards with the committee.

At 3:05 p.m. Senator Roraback indicated that the committee would take a 10 minutes recess. Senator Roraback called the meeting back to order at 3:15 p.m. and the discussion of standards continued.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Sandra Forte', Clerk