



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE

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Neil M. O'Leary
Chief of Police



Michael J. Gugliotti
Deputy Chief of Police
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Deputy Chief of Police

October 31, 2007

Hon. Senator Martin M. Looney
Hon. Senator Andrew W. Roraback, Co-Chairs
Senate Bipartisan Committee Of Review
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Re: SENATE RESOLUTION 200 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING A COMMITTEE
OF REVIEW TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE SENATE
CONCERNING SENATOR LOUIS C. DELUCA

Dear Honorable Chairmen,

I respectfully regret the committee's decision not to allow me the opportunity to appear before them to respond to Senator DeLuca's testimony but as indicated I will respond in writing under oath. But I think that before getting into my responses, you as respected committee members should at least know something about me. I thank-you in advance for taking the time to read my biography so that you at least have some idea of who I am and what I believe in.

My name is Neil M. O'Leary and I am the Chief of Police here in Waterbury, Connecticut. I am forty-nine years old. I graduated from Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury, Connecticut in 1976. I left Northeastern University where I studied Criminal Justice in the spring of 1980 to join the Waterbury Police Department at the age of twenty-one.

My career started as a patrol officer after graduating from the Municipal Police Training Academy in June 1980. I was promoted to Detective in 1983, promoted to Sergeant in 1991, promoted to Lieutenant in 1997, promoted to Captain in 2001, Deputy Chief 2002, Acting Chief of Police 2003, Chief of Police , November 2004.

To Protect and To Serve

From 1983 to 2003 I was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Bureau. During that twenty year time span I was assigned to or supervised virtually every major felony case that came into the Waterbury Police Department. I was the lead investigator in each of the Capitol Felony cases here in Waterbury, including the murder of Waterbury Police Officer Walter Williams. I have logged more courtroom testimony than any other Waterbury Police Officer from 1983 through 2003.

In addition to homicide investigations I have also investigated sexual assaults, aggravated assaults, robberies, serious narcotic investigations, and domestic violence.

I received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 1983 from the University of New Haven. I also graduated from the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development program in 2004.

I have received numerous department citations and awards including the department's highest award in 1997.

I am well known throughout the greater Waterbury region not only for my role as a police officer but also my commitment to the community. I sit on the board of directors for Saint Mary's Hospital Foundation, Waterbury Development Corporation, Holy Cross High School, Palace Theater, Waterbury Police Activities League (PAL) and Jane Doe No More, which is a non-profit organization for victims of sexual assault.

I am also a member to the Advisory Panel of the State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services. As you are aware, the Office of Victim Services is the state's lead agency established to provide services to victims of violent crime.

In 2003 I led a management team which drafted and subsequently implemented a newly revised duty manual for the Waterbury Police Department which has been described by some experts in the field as a model for modern police departments. This newly revised manual and its policies have in fact been used by numerous area law enforcement agencies. As you have seen, the section of the manual which concerns domestic violence is modern and up to date with all state statutes, and POST recommendations.

I have also received numerous community service awards some of which include: Exchange Club Policeman of the Year; Waterbury Boys and Girls Club Public Service Award; Olympian Club Community Service Award; Greater Waterbury Neighborhood Association Person of the Year Award; and in May 2007 I was selected for the Greater Waterbury NAACP Humanitarian Award.

It is my hope that after reading the above information you will see that I have dedicated my entire adult life to my profession and community service. It is also my hope that you now have at least some idea of who I am and what I believe in.

At this time I will respond to statements made to you by Senator Louis DeLuca and Attorney Craig Rabbe.

To Protect and To Serve

I'll start with Attorney Rabbe's statement (page 7) "But I think it is fair for this Committee to assume that if the Chief had had a different response to Senator DeLuca's complaint, none of us would be here today" And then Senator DeLuca's statement (page 41) "I also regret, however, that Chief O'Leary did not help when I asked him, because if he had, none of us would be here today"

I am having a great deal of difficulty understanding how any educated professional, or elected official could possibly believe these statements could be credible to anyone. The fact is that Mr. DeLuca is a seventeen year member of the Connecticut Senate. During his tenure numerous pieces of legislation concerning Domestic Violence have been acted upon. It is inconceivable that the Senator would not know that law enforcement officers do not have the discretion whether or not to take action. But even if that were the case, I can't imagine how or why a person who is a veteran lawmaker, a legislative deal maker, a person who could get the Mayor of Waterbury, States Attorney John Connelly, Chief States Attorney Kevin Kane, the Commissioner of Public Safety, or the Governor herself on the phone to complain to them that he was getting no satisfaction from the Police Chief. Furthermore, Mr. DeLuca could have at least mentioned his dissatisfaction with me to our close mutual friend he mentioned during his oral testimony but he did not (page 82). Nor did he ever mention to this close personal mutual friend his fear for Casey's safety or that she was being abused. I will say this; if Mr. DeLuca had mentioned any of this to our close personal mutual friend, that individual would have had me on the phone in seconds.

The real fact is this; if Mr. DeLuca did not go to Mr. Galante none of us would be involved in this very unpleasant experience.

As to the committee's question number eighteen concerning my contact with Casey Colella's aunts, as I stated in my sworn statement to the committee both Mrs. Mecca and Ms. Reilly have known me for a number of years. When I met with them in January 2005 they stated to me that Casey had just met Mark Colella and asked if I knew who he was because he was from Waterbury. It was concerning to them because of his age and that it appeared that Casey was pulling away from them. Neither Mrs. Mecca nor Ms. Reilly expressed any fear of domestic violence and they have both stated that publicly in newspaper articles. I told them that I did in fact know Mark Colella because we lived in the same neighborhood. I also told both women that if I could help them in any way to please contact me. I have seen each of them on dozens of occasions since that time and neither ever expressed concern about Casey's safety.

Lastly I would like to comment on Mr. DeLuca's response to the committee's question number nineteen. As I stated before I had two informal casual conversations with Mr. DeLuca concerning his granddaughter Casey. Both conversations were at public events. Mr. DeLuca never talked with me via telephone concerning his granddaughter. Mr. DeLuca never came to the Waterbury Police Department to file a complaint concerning his granddaughter. And as we know by his own testimony, Mr. DeLuca never contacted any other law enforcement officer or official about his granddaughter. And the real sad

part of this is, if there was any truth to any of these allegations, not one other person went to the authorities either.

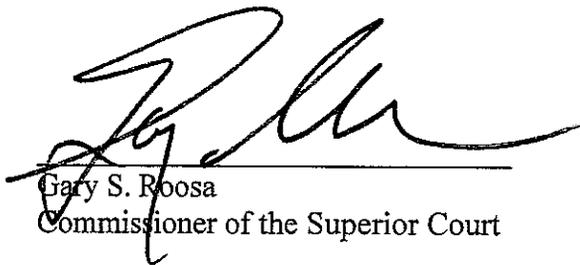
I have nothing to either gain or lose in this in the situation now before your committee and I stand by all the representations I have made to the committee. I have been honest and forthcoming and continue to co-operate because it is the right thing to do. However, I am sure you appreciate my frustration as Senator DeLuca continues to disparage not only me but the 300 plus members of this Department.

Respectfully Submitted,



Neil M. O'Leary

On this the 31st day of October, 2007 personally appeared Neil M. O'Leary who swore under oath to the truthfulness of the contents herein.



Gary S. Roosa
Commissioner of the Superior Court