

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

JUNE 2, 1988

The Committee on Finance reconvenes this evening upon the rise of the City Council meeting at 8:35 o'clock P.M.

Present: Chairwoman Brassil and Councilmen Dillon, Glavin and O'Connor.

Also present are Council President Easton, Councilmen Petrosinelli, Stravato, Lopes, Annaldo and Lombardi. (Rose M. Mendonca, Clerk).

Present by invitation is Albert J. Lepore, Jr. recent appointment to the School Board.

Chairwoman Brassil informs Mr. Lepore the Committee members had decided to ask him a few questions. She notes he is a law student at Vermont Law School and questions whether he will be able to give the School Board the quality time needed.

Mr. Lepore states he is a law student at Vermont Law School, entering his second year. He has two required classes which would not interfere with his attendance at meetings and sub-committee meetings. He does not foresee any problems. He is a resident of the City of Providence, is married and has no children.

Chairwoman Brassil questions whether he is working for Local 1033.

Mr. Lepore states he does not work for the Union nor is he a member. He works part time for Coia & Lepore when he is not in school. He does no Union work.

Chairwoman Brassil questions whether he would abstain from voting on matters pertaining to Local 1033 to which he responds he has no problem with abstaining and he will not be involved at closed meetings.

Councilman Glavin states the questions covered two key points raised. It is important that he has stated he is willing to avoid potential impression of conflict because of the relationship he has with the law firm that works for Local 1033.

He questions as to how many courses Mr. Lepore is taking this next year.

Mr. Lepore responds five courses. They do not meet everyday. He travels back and forth, approximately 166 nights, time-wise, 2½ hours.

There will be no problem attending regular sessions of the School Board meetings.

Council President Easton questions as to whether Mr. Lepore is enrolled as a boarding student to which he responds he has an apartment in Vermont, his wife is here continuously as she works for the

General Assembly as an employee relations coordinator.

Councilman Lombardi questions the conflict of interest brought up and questioned as a potential conflict due to his working with a law firm that works for the Union. He (Mr. Lepore) stated he does not work with the Union and questions the conflict, as he sees none.

Chairwoman Brassil states she did not say there is a conflict, it is the potential.

Councilman Lombardi states Mr. Lepore can go to the RI Ethics Commission and get an opinion and Chairwoman Brassil states maybe he should.

Councilman Glavin states that is a good point, the Committee or the City Council questions the potential conflict. People draw an unfair conclusion that it would be a conflict and they have to be sensitive to that appearance.

Councilman Lombardi states they all feel he is competent to be a School Board Member. He is of the opinion Mr. Lepore is capable and intelligent enough to make those decisions. He does not think any Councilmember has that concern, (he questions certain members), he doesn't. If there are concerns he suggests an opinion from the Ethics Commission.

Councilman Lopes questions as to how many meetings the School Board has and Chairwoman Brassil responds, monthly and they have sub-committee meetings.

Mr. Lepore states between today's date and January of 1989 the only time he is in session at school is for six School Board meetings and he will make a schedule.

Discussion ensues as to the departure from the procedure of appointments to Boards and Commissions by the Mayor for Councilman Petrosinelli who has always responded to Councilmembers requests and it is brought out it will not be repeated.

Council President Easton states departure from procedure made an issue of something that would not be. He is concerned and states for the record, of the remarks of the Mayor regarding departure of procedure and was assured that his comments were taken out of content and misquoted.

He is of the opinion that if anything, this matter reflects the

Council's anxiety to respect fellow Council people and judgement in the Mayor's confidence.

It does illustrate that in the future they have to be very strong in adhering to their procedure and do it even when it is obvious it is a good appointment. He will take the responsibility for the departure.

Mr. Lepore states he is anxious to begin his work on the School Board.

Chairwoman Brassil states she is impressed with Superintendent of Schools Almagno's presentation. Unless everything is watched properly, the schools are not going to get better. The leadership is important to the City Council.

The members express their appreciation to Mr. Lepore for his attending the meeting on such short notice and he is excused.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE - ALFRED S.
PERTUSO - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

Chairwoman Brassil reads a request for leave of absence for Alfred S. Pertuso, employed in the Public Property Department starting May 27, 1988 and ending November 27, 1988 for personal reasons.

On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it is voted to approve the foregoing request for a Leave of Absence.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE - KENNETH
D. KAAPT - MAYOR'S OFFICE.**

Chairwoman Brassil reads a request from Kenneth D. Kaapt, employed in the Mayor's Office for a leave of absence from May 30, 1988 and ending November 13, 1988.

On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, the foregoing request for a leave of absence is approved.

FORM FOR APPLICATION FOR TAX FREEZE PROGRAM.

Chairwoman Brassil submits copies of the above to the members and requests they review same and at a later date give their comments for revisions to the Committee.

The Committee recesses at 9:00 o'clock P.M. to reconvene on Wednesday, June 8, 1988 at 5:00 o'clock P.M.

Rose M. Mendola
Clerk

Copied *J.M.A.*
Compared *BE*