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Letter from R. Yankwitt to K. Sleight re: re: CITY OF RYE BOARD OF ETHICS:

1 message

Russell Yankwitt <Russell@yankwitt.com>

Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 3:06 PM

To: "publisher@MyRye.com" <publisher@myrye.com>

Cc: Michael Reed <Michael@yankwitt.com>, Benjamin Allee <Benjamin@yankwitt.com>

Good afternoon,

I understand that you reached out to Beth Griffin regarding the recently dismissed case against the Rye BOE. Yankwitt LLP is issuing the below statement regarding this case:

YANKWITT LLP STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF RYE BOARD OF ETHICS:

We are pleased that the lawsuit, *Josh Cohn, et al. v. City of Rye Board of Ethics*, has been completely dismissed. The Board of Ethics – a group including volunteer, Rye residents performing a public service – repeatedly informed Petitioners that their suit was meritless. Less than two weeks after counsel for the Board of Ethics wrote Petitioners informing them of the weakness of their case, Petitioners agreed to dismiss their own case, completely and unconditionally, with prejudice.

Petitioners' lawsuit created a waste of time, resources, and taxpayer money. Prior to the lawsuit, the Board of Ethics explained this to Petitioners in order that such waste be avoided. Once the lawsuit was brought, the Board of Ethics engaged in efforts to resolve the dispute efficiently, and communicated its position to Petitioners' counsel repeatedly, including before the July 14, 2023, Rye City Council meeting. Petitioners, however, persisted in their meritless, wasteful suit, and only agreed to dismiss their own case after the Board of Ethics' counsel sent them the enclosed letter making clear that dismissal was required by law.

Petitioners have made public statements attempting to malign the Board of Ethics, its advisory opinion, and regarding the purported merits of the dismissed lawsuit. Petitioners' statements are incorrect. The Board of Ethics' confidential advisory opinion was correct. The Board of Ethics stands by it. And the Board of Ethics properly issued it to requesting City officials, and those officials alone.

Yankwitt LLP

Litigation Counsel to the City of Rye Board of Ethics



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