



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND & PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER
ROOM 106, STATE HOUSE
PROVIDENCE
02903

BLAKE A. FILIPPI
HOUSE MINORITY LEADER
401-222-2259

January 28, 2019

Mr. Frank Montanaro
82 Smith St.
Providence, R.I. 02908

Dear Mr. Montanaro:

I have come to learn that records and computer hard drives of the Joint Committee on Legislative Services (JCLS) have been removed from the JCLS office in our Statehouse basement. You have provided no notice of this unusual action to me, in my capacity as a member of JCLS, and no notice to other members of JCLS.

You are a named Defendant in a pending Superior Court action, PC-2020-00508, commenced in my capacity as a member of JCLS. Of particular note is averment #19, alleging, in part, that you and Speaker Mattiello have, and continue to, unlawfully exercise the sole statutory authority of JCLS to "maintain[] the records of the General Assembly."

Even assuming you lawfully serve as the Executive Director of JCLS, the removal of JCLS records from their historical location without the permission of, or notice to, the JCLS membership, is highly improper. That you have done so in the face of the pending litigation is beyond the pale.

In addition, please be advised that we believe these relocated documents and computers contain information that directly relate to our pending litigation, and potentially, to the reported criminal investigation(s) related to the Office of the JCLS.

I urge you to consult with your attorney regarding your obligation to preserve records under state law and the Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure.

I hereby direct you to provide the members of the JCLS with a written log of all records and computer hard drives that were removed from the JCLS offices, their current location(s), and a list of all persons with access to these locations. Given the damage created by the presence of mold to documents and hard drives, additionally please include a log of any documents or hard drives that have been destroyed.

I also demand a written commitment that all documents and hard drives will be preserved, only accessed in the normal course of business, and that none of these items will be moved, removed or altered without prior written notice to the members of JCLS.

If I do not hear from you by 10 AM on January 29, 2020, I will seek injunctive relief in Superior Court compelling compliance with our General Laws.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blake A. Filippi', written in a cursive style.

Blake A. Filippi
House Minority Leader

c.c.

Senate President Dominic Ruggiero
Senate Minority Leader Dennis Algieri
House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello
House Majority Leader Joseph Shekarchi