



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

February 3, 2016

Steven Brown
Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island
128 Dorrance Street, Suite 220
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Brown:

Mayor Elorza is in receipt of your January 26, 2016 letter and has asked me to respond. In your letter, you ask the Mayor to direct the Providence Police Department to immediately halt enforcement of two City of Providence ordinances—an ordinance pertaining to “aggressive solicitation,” and an ordinance pertaining to “loitering on bus line property.” Thank you for your correspondence bringing your concerns to our attention.

With respect to the “loitering on bus line property” ordinance, we are aware of no arrests having been made pursuant to the ordinance. As to the “aggressive solicitation” ordinance, today, the Mayor and I will be directing Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr., Providence’s Chief of Police, to instruct the members of the Providence Police Department to refrain from enforcement of this ordinance. I will also be directing attorneys in the City’s Law Department to terminate any pending prosecutions which have been brought pursuant to this ordinance.

The Mayor and I are confident that the Colonel will communicate this policy change as swiftly and effectively as possible to all members of the Department. The Mayor remains committed to making Providence a place that supports its residents, especially those who are most in need, and we look forward to our continued work together in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dana".

Jeffrey Dana
City Solicitor

cc: The Honorable Jorge O. Elorza
The Honorable Luis A. Aponte, Council President
Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr., Chief of Police

CITY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

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