

Town of Stoughton

10 Pearl Street • Stoughton, MA 02072 • (781) 341-1300 • FAX (781) 344-5048

May 12, 2009

Sharon Farrell, Acting Chairman
Stoughton Council on Aging
110 Rockland Street
Stoughton, MA 02072

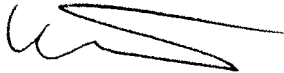
Dear Ms. Farrell:

Thank you for your letter dated May 6, 2009 regarding various issues at the Council on Aging (COA). As stated, I am deeply concerned with the unsigned flyer that was inserted into the COA's monthly newsletter and a second letter posted to Town Meeting members. Not only was the flyer unsigned, it utilized erroneous and misleading information with an intent to influence Town Meeting at a time were 18 positions have been eliminated and all departments, including the COA, will not be able to sustain full funding for all services. In addition, COA personnel time and public monies were paid to prepare and mail these documents. The town is currently reviewing this situation in that such actions may constitute a misuse of public funds.

As to the action of COA Board Member Warren West, I have personally dealt with Mr. West and heard several of his complaints. I have found Mr. West's demeanor to be quite boisterous however I do not believe he is a danger as evidenced that when asked to leave the COA premises he complied. Nor after reading the reports do I believe Mr. West deliberately spat in Ms. Quinn's face. I have observed Mr. West when he is agitated and he does have a tendency to 'spray' when he speaks.

If your assertion is Mr. West has acted in a manner that deserves his removal from office, the full COA should verify any reasons for removal and a majority vote should be rendered to recommend such removal to his appointing authority.

Very truly yours,



Mark S. Stankiewicz
Town Manager