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January 23, 2009

Mr. Dean Bissias
Executive Director
Park District of La Grange
536 East Ave
La Grange IL 60525

Dear Mr. Bissias:

I am writing to follow up on discussions you and I had in November 2008 regarding an allegation that vehicles belonging to individuals or entities other than the Park District of La Grange were being stored for extended periods of time inside a district maintenance shed located at Gordon Park.

As you will recall, I reported on November 1 in my online newsblog, <http://lagrangetoday.com>, that Kevin Shields, a district resident and former park commissioner, said he observed two watercraft and a sports car within the shed during a visit he made to the park this past summer. Further, I reported that I accompanied Mr. Shields to the park in mid-October and personally observed through a partially open bay door, visible from the adjacent parking lot, what appeared to be a pontoon boat located against the rear wall inside the southernmost bay of the shed.

In that same newsblog post, I quoted you as saying that you were unaware of any such vehicles being stored in the shed, but that you would investigate the allegation. Your quote came from a phone conversation you and I had on the previous day, October 31.

Also on November 1, you and I both were present at Gordon Park for an "informational walk-around" held for the public prior to a November 4 referendum regarding a proposed sale of a portion of the park. At that event, I asked if you had had an opportunity to investigate Mr. Shields' allegation. You said you had not. When I asked if we could inspect the interior of the maintenance shed, as we were standing next to it, you replied that you did not possess keys to the building. This information also was reported in my newsblog as an update to the original post.

Several days later, I met with you and Leynette Kuniej, the district's superintendent of finance, at your invitation to discuss the district's financial health. Near the conclusion of that meeting, I once again asked if you had investigated Mr. Shields' allegations. You replied in the affirmative, saying that you had confirmed that an employee of the district had indeed been storing a watercraft in the shed without authorization, and that the employee had been reprimanded. You declined to identify the employee or divulge the extent of the reprimand, citing privacy in personnel matters.

I then asked whether you had found the alleged second watercraft and sports car also within the shed. You responded that you were not aware of any other personal vehicles being stored there.

Since that time, you and I have had no further discussion on the matter. Also, I did not report on my newsblog the substance of our conversation as there remained an inconsistency between your findings and Mr. Shields' allegation, and I had no way to resolve it on my own.

I happened to mention this situation to Lynn McCarthy, an assistant state's attorney for Cook County, in a conversation I had with her yesterday morning. She recommended I take the matter to the park district board of commissioners and get back to her if their response was unsatisfactory.

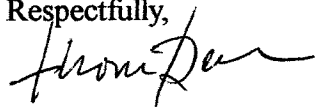
Subsequently, I spoke with Tim Kelsas, president of the park board, who asked me to make a final effort to resolve this matter with you directly.

So, in order to put this issue to rest, I am asking you to provide evidence that would satisfy any public doubt that no watercraft, automobiles or other personal property are being stored in the Gordon Park maintenance shed.

Also, I am asking for a detailed explanation as to how any personal items came to be stored in that facility, how long that situation existed, and why criminal charges were not sought against the person(s) responsible, as the unauthorized use of public funds and /or resources for personal benefit is, frankly, a theft.

Thank you for your prompt consideration and response to my request.

Respectfully,



Thom Rae

Publisher, *LaGrangeToday.com*, *EverythingLaGrange.com*

cc: Tim Kelsas
President, Park District of La Grange

Robert Bush
Attorney, Park District of La Grange (via email)

Kevin Shields (via email)

Lynn McCarthy
Assistant State's Attorney, Cook County (via email)