

UL. v. Carteret, Piscataway

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Letter from Epps (UL Pres) to Mayor of Piscataway  
re mediation meeting last week

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# Civic League of Greater New Brunswick, Inc.



RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION  
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JANETH ELAINE SCOTT  
Chairperson

C. ROY EPPS  
President

August 3, 1987

Mr. Ted Light, Mayor  
Township of Piscataway  
Municipal Building  
455 Hoes Lane  
Piscataway, N.J. 08854

Dear Mayor Light:

This is a follow-up to our mediation meeting last week which was held at the Middlesex County Planning Board. This letter does not address the mediation process, but my reaction to the comments and behavior of your attorney, Phillip L. Paley, concerning the legitimacy of our organization to appear as an objector to Piscataway's Fair Housing Plan.

For the record, we have been involved in advocacy for low and moderate income housing for the past 42 years in the New Brunswick area. In 1974, we filed a zoning discrimination suit against 23 of the 25 municipalities in Middlesex County which included the Township of Piscataway. We have been actively and continuously involved in the litigation process involving the fair share production of low and moderate income housing in the Township of Piscataway. Although the litigation has moved from the judicial process to the administrative stage, we continue as an active monitor of such production and to insure that those in most need have a realistic opportunity of pursuing affordable housing. We have elected to participate in the administrative process under the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), but we recognize that there is other relief if, in fact, assurances that Piscataway's fair share of low and moderate income housing will not be realized.

Therefore, as Chief Executive Officer of the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick and a participant in the mediation process to resolve obvious flaws and omissions in the Piscataway Fair Share Plan, I felt a sense of controlled anger, mixed with a professional tolerance for the behavior of your attorney. It should be noted that approximately 30% of the League's membership is made up of Piscataway residents, along with members who serve on its Board of Directors. It is incomprehensible to me that your attorney would insult their interest with his comments. I had

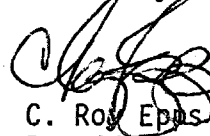
Mayor Ted Light  
August 3, 1987  
Page Two

resisted sharing with others this on-going battle concerning Mr. Paley's disregard for the purpose of the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick, but I feel forced to have the public record exposed relative to the role of Piscataway Township and the issue of affordable housing.

For the record, please find enclosed a letter to COAH by Mr. Paley and COAH's response concerning the League's role in the mediation process. There is other documentation which further indicates a blatant disregard, disrespect and insensitivity to the goals and objectives of the League relative to the protection and rights of Blacks and other minorities concerning affordable housing.

As I indicated in my opening remarks at the meeting, the mediation process is one that could work if an atmosphere was established which allowed for reasonable people to act intelligently on the Fair Share Plan. The comments and behavior of Mr. Paley is going to make this process very difficult or almost impossible. Also, as I indicated to you that he is your representative and; therefore, represents the position of your office and that of the municipality. This representation is considered insulting to our corporation and will not be tolerated. I felt it necessary and essential to inform the Board of Directors of the League and others who are concerned with the implementation of the doctrine of Mount Laurel.

Sincerely,



C. Roy Epps  
President

CRE/zad

Enclosure

cc: Board of Directors, Civic League  
John Lynch, Senator  
David Schwartz, Assemblyman  
Robert Smith, Assemblyman  
Louis Nikolaidis