



# COMMON CAUSE

## R H O D E I S L A N D

Sent via electronic mail

September 5, 2014

Mr. Angel Taveras  
P.O. Box 2533  
Providence, RI 02906

Ms. Gina Raimondo  
P.O. Box 40794  
Providence, RI 02940

Mr. Clay Pell  
P.O. Box 6287  
Providence, RI 02940

Dear Messrs.' Pell, Raimondo and Pell:

I am writing today about the status of the People's Pledge you signed earlier this year. Yesterday a possible violation of the Pledge was brought to my attention by WPRI.com reporter Ted Nesi. Mr. Nesi pointed to a September 4, 2014 advertisement in the Providence Journal by the Providence Police Union.

It is my belief that the advertisement, which is attached, violates the terms of the Pledge; specifically the third numbered paragraph on Page 3 that reads:

In the event that a Third Party Organization engages in any Advertising in *opposition* to a Named Candidate, and such Third Party Organization *has not Endorsed* a candidate, the campaign of the Non-Aggrieved Candidate(s) shall within (3) days of discovery of the Advertising Buy's cost, duration, and source, pay 100% of the cost (if the Advertising is in opposition to two Named Candidates) or 50% (if the Advertising is in opposition to one Named Candidate) of that Advertising Buy to a charity of the Aggrieved Candidate's choice.

My analysis begins by examining whether this advertisement fits the definitions in the People's Pledge. The ad fits the definition of "advertising" in the Pledge, which reads in part as, "print ads (including newspaper and magazine)." Quite clearly having appeared in the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 edition of the Providence Journal this is an advertisement. The advertising clearly features a "Named Candidate" in the Pledge, which is defined in part as, "a candidate who is named or referenced (including by name, title, picture, or likeness) in an Advertisement" since it features both Angel Taveras' picture and name. Furthermore, the Providence Fraternal Order of Police, which identifies itself as the entity that "paid for" this advertisement

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clearly fits the definition of "Third Party Organization" whose definition includes "unions."

Having established that indeed this is an "Advertisement" featuring a "Named Candidate" by a "Third Party Organization," I turned to whether it appeared "[I]n opposition of a Named Candidate." That is defined as "among other things, [an advertisements that] negatively portrays, criticizes, or calls into question a Named Candidate or the work (legislation, record, values, etc.) of a Named Candidate," and furthermore "encourages voters, for any reason, to vote against, think negatively about, or question a Named Candidate." The advertisement's language that criticizes Angel Taveras' record as mayor, such as "Unwarranted tax increases" is clearly a reference to his work as Mayor of Providence. Furthermore, the statement in the advertisement "Don't allow him to also mismanage the State of Rhode Island!" is a reference to his candidacy for Governor of Rhode Island. I was not able to find documentary proof whether the Providence Fraternal Order of Police has endorsed one of the candidates in the race, but based on my research they have not. If you or your campaigns have evidence otherwise I urge you to share that with me.

Since this advertisement and its content clearly fall within the People's Pledge, I turn to the penalties. The penalties are to be paid by the "Non-Aggrieved Candidate(s)" to a charity of the choice of the "Aggrieved Candidate." In this instance there are two "Non-Aggrieved Candidate(s)," Clay Pell and Gina Raimondo, and one "Aggrieved Candidate," Angel Taveras. Therefore Mr. Pell and Ms. Raimondo must pay 50% of the cost of the advertisement to a charity of Mr. Taveras' choice.

We reached out to the advertising department of the Providence Journal but have not yet received a reply concerning the amount of the advertising buy. I will contact you as soon as I receive information about the cost. In the meantime I ask Mr. Taveras to inform me of the charity he chooses and I will communicate that to Mr. Pell and Ms. Raimondo.

I want to thank you all again for participating in the People's Pledge in this year's Democratic primary. If this is the only violation of the Pledge we see in this primary election it will be a great success and something I think you should all be proud of having taken part in.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John Marion  
Executive Director

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

We believe

**ANGEL TAVERAS**

is Wanted For:

- ✓ Gambling away Public Safety
- ✓ Mismanagement of City Finances
- ✓ False Statements to the Citizens of the City Providence
- ✓ Unwarranted Tax Increases

You will recognize him by his:

- ✓ Police-chauffeured Vehicle which costs the tax payers Hundreds of Thousands of dollars per Year.
- ✓ False promises to taxpayers to fix the City's problems

...Angel is no "angel"...

Angel Taveras couldn't manage the City of Providence effectively. Don't allow him to also mismanage the State of Rhode Island!

**WANTED**

FOR A LONG LIST...



**ANGEL TAVERAS**

**NO - REWARD**

**Paid for by Providence Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 3**  
Taft Manzotti, President