

Cliff A Ponte

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City Council President

2019 SEP -9 P 2: 10

September 9, 2019

Mayor Jasiel F Correia II
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02720

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

RE: Mayor Federal Indictment / Referencing City Charter Article 3, Section 3-8 / Temporary Removal

Mr. Mayor,

On Friday, September 6th, 2019, our city was once again in the local, statewide, and national headlines due to your very public arrest. The United States Attorney held a press conference announcing they had added an additional 11 indictment(s), including, 5 counts of extortion conspiracy, 5 counts of extortion; aiding and abetting and 1 count of bribery, against you. These are very serious allegations. These were in addition to the previous 13 indictments that you were charged with less than a year ago.

In October of 2018, when you were charged with the initial 13 indictments, you insisted that these were "personal matters" - and on several different occasions afterwards, you indicated that "These charges have nothing to do with the City of Fall River, or your role as Mayor." The additional 11 indictments brought forth on Friday are directly related to your role as Mayor, as you have utilized the power of your position for personal monetary gain through several alleged schemes, 3 of which are outright theft of City funds.

Since you have been Mayor, you have often stated, "You want what is best for Fall River." I believe now is the time that you really do what is best for Fall River and temporarily step aside from your duties as Mayor of the City of Fall River. The residents of Fall River deserve to have a government they can trust. Restoring that trust needs to be a top priority.

As a result, I have every intention to amend the agenda for our upcoming City Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow, September 10, 2019. During this meeting, I will call for a vote of the Council to exercise the right of the Council under Home Rule Charter Article 3, Section 3-8 which reads "*The city council, by the affirmative vote of 7 members, shall determine whether the mayor is unable to perform the duties of the office. The vote shall take place in public session by a roll call vote.*" The City Charter indicates that if the vote of 7 years prevails, you will be temporarily relieved of your duties as Mayor, and an acting Mayor would stand in your place, until such time that the charges against you are withdrawn. At that time, you would then resume the duties of your office and finish your term.

The community is expecting this City Council to take a stand and act accordingly, and it is our duty to respond.

I think that we would both agree that if this was a Department Head, or any other City employee, they would be put on administrative leave effective immediately, pending the outcome of this investigation. Elected Officials should not be treated any differently.

Please do what is best for Fall River.

Thank you,



Cliff Ponte

City Council President

CC: City Clerk, City Council, Attorney Macy