

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fall River – In 1990, Mayor, then State Representative, Robert Correia amended a statute regarding a Mayor's authority to appoint Election Commissioners in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Just last year, Mayor Robert Correia made a key appointment to his Administration which since the date of the appointment has continued to violate the prohibitions in the very same statute he created.

In November 2008, Mayor Robert Correia appointed city Election's Board Chairman Adam M. Chapdelaine to the position of City Administrator, the closet appointed position to the Mayor. The appointment is in direct and total conflict with state law, which prohibits an individual acting in the capacity of an election's commissioner from holding any other elected or appointed office in the same city. Despite the statutory prohibition, Chapdelaine continues to hold the Chairman of the Election Commission position and no attempt has been made to replace him. In fact, at a press conference announcing his appointment to the position of City Administrator, Chapdelaine pointed out that the two offices are located in close physical proximity to each other in City Hall. Chapter 51 Section 25 of the General Laws prohibits the dual appointment. Provisions of Chapter 51 Section 25 were amended to include the prohibition on dual appointment in 1990 when Robert Correia was a member of the State Legislature.

Mayoral candidate Attorney Will Flanagan blasted the Administration for the blatant statutory violation and claimed the move "undermines the public trust in the municipal election process." Flanagan stated, "It is an apparent conflict for the Mayor's top political aide to fairly and impartially administer the very election process that will determine the next Mayor of the city of Fall River."

Flanagan added, "Not only has this administration violated a statute Mayor Correia himself had a role in amending, but Mayor Correia has essentially thumbed his nose at the voters in Fall River who place their confidence in a mayor to provide an independent and fair electoral process, free from the influence of a candidate for the City's highest office. Flanagan added, "Coupled with the mass-firing of City Department Heads when Correia took office in 2008, this latest move shows that autonomy and independence are fleeting values in this administration and consolidation of power and preserving his place at the helm of City Government is all that Mayor Correia will focus on." Flanagan concluded, "As provided by the law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Mr.

Chapdelaine must be terminated as Chairman of the Election's Commission. Furthermore, it is very disturbing to see Mayor Correia have a total disregard for the very law he helped to create."

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