October 6, 2011

The Honorable Samuel D. Zurier
Councilman – Ward 2
City of Providence
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street, Suite 400
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Councilman Zurier:

In response to your September 30, 2011 letter regarding the "Get Motivated" event taking place at the Dunkin Donuts Center on October 3, 2011, the City of Providence has no role in approving or regulating the condition or scheduling of any events at the Dunkin Donuts Center.

The event was publicized for several weeks preceding the event and the City was engaged in discussion the later part of September. We met on September 15, 2010 with officials from the Dunkin Donuts Center and had several subsequent meetings. The public safety members became concerned when it was disclosed that the event was sold out and we should expect traffic congestion and possibly gridlock as experienced in other cities with this event.

After considering traffic relocation, parking capacity, increased vehicle volume, re-routing bus routes and other measures to mitigate traffic concerns, I recommended the delay of school by two hours to the school department for obvious public safety reasons.

To the best of my knowledge, the school department was notified of our public safety concerns during the week of September 26, 2011.

The City should be part of the process when events are scheduled for the Dunkin Donuts Center or Convention Center when such events occur during the weekday and will have an adverse impact on transportation. Although the Convention Center Authority is responsible for scheduling events, I believe the City should play a role to ensure all events are properly managed. I will have a subsequent discussion with the Convention

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Center Authority to ensure such planning and public safety concerns are considered with such events in the future.

Very truly yours,

Steven M. Paré
Commissioner of Public Safety

SMP:mb