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May 24, 2011

Via Hand Delivery

Edward P. Mangano  
Nassau County Executive  
Office of the County Executive  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York 11501

George Maragos  
County Comptroller  
Nassau County Comptrollers Office  
240 Old Country Road  
Mineola, New York 11501

Re: Response by Board of Directors of Long Island Association for AIDS Care  
to the Nassau County Comptroller Press Release Regarding Long  
Island Association for AIDS Care

Gentlemen:

We represent the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. ("LIAAC") and its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Gail Barouh, in connection with the continuing harm to reputation and defamation of character being committed by your offices. James Sweeney, National Lead for Exempt Organization Technical Tax Services for RSM McGladrey, Inc., reviewed the press release submitted by the Comptroller to the Associated Press and the two recent New York Post articles containing quotes from your offices. Mr. Sweeney has confirmed that "material errors" were made by your offices regarding Dr. Barouh's compensation.

Edward P. Mangano  
George Maragos  
May 24, 2011  
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The Board uses an approved nationally recognized management compensation survey in determining executive compensation. Dr. Barouh falls within the average for the budget and scope of the agency, and her qualifications for the job. Enclosed is an amended Form 990 filed by McGladrey, which confirms that Dr. Barouh's compensation for 2009 (page 7) consisted of a salary of \$244,132 with \$25,500 in other compensation in the form of health insurance and pension contribution. Also enclosed for your reference is a January 2, 2010 letter from the Board Co-Chair of BiasHELP, Inc. that confirms that as of December 2009, Dr. Barouh was no longer on staff and since then has worked only in a volunteer capacity with no compensation.

Given the foregoing, LIAAC and Dr. Barouh demand: 1) that your offices cease and desist the dissemination of false information relating to Dr. Barouh's compensation; 2) an immediate retraction of the County's press release; and 3) a release of any hold on pending contracts. The constant negative, inaccurate information being disseminated by your offices has hurt the most vulnerable people on Long Island who not only suffer from HIV/AIDS, but also face insurmountable discrimination based on their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and economic status. A hold on pending contracts is only compounding the damage that your offices have already done. The County Executive and Comptroller cannot use LIAAC and its CEO as a political pawn to detract from the County's fiscal crisis.

As you know, LIAAC has been trying to get you to agree to sit down to discuss the incorrect information being disseminated by your offices since March 23, 2011. Inexplicably, all attempts at a meeting have been rebuffed and negative media coverage by your offices has increased. At this point, Mr. Sweeney feels a meeting is required. LIAAC remains willing to discuss these issues, including cooperating in any audit. As you are aware, LIAAC's sources of public funding (county, state and federal) require ongoing reports and audits of agency finances. In addition, LIAAC is required to have an independent annual program and fiscal audit. In its 25-year history, LIAAC has always had an unqualified opinion, the highest that can be achieved.

Thank you for your response to the issues raised in this letter by 5 p.m. today.

Very truly yours,

  
Debra L. Wabnik

DLW:am

cc: James P. Sweeney  
National Lead, Exempt Organization Technical Tax Services  
Managing Director/ RSM McGladrey, Inc.  
Partner/McGladrey & Pullen, L.L.P.  
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