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*"Inclusion Through Diversity"*

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Local Media Outlets

**FROM:** William J. Troy III

**DATE:** September 8, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Allegations Made at the September 7<sup>th</sup> Common Council Meeting

As to the allegations made at the September 7th Common Council meeting regarding County staff, Mr. Dominick Recckio, I have reviewed the facts of the incident in question as the Chief Legal Officer of the County. I have concluded that no violation of the law, much less a breach of anyone's constitutional rights, has occurred.

After review, I found no threat of suppression of the Tompkins Weekly newspaper or any other publication. I found no evidence of improper influence, misconduct, or abuse of Mr. Recckio's position.

This claim made by a City Council member arose from a column in the Tompkins Weekly Newspaper containing a statement by the Mayor of Trumansburg. In reading that story Mr.

Reckkio felt that the columnist did not fully report what was involved in the County-Wide efforts under RPS (“Reimagining Public Safety”).

Tompkins County values the right of anyone to speak openly about public issues. There is also an equal right to disagree with someone’s opinion. Here Mr. Reckkio, as the Communications Director of Tompkins County, suggested to the editor of that newspaper that the column in question contained some inaccuracies. At no time was any threat made directly or indirectly against anyone. In fact, upon reviewing Mr. Reckkio’s comments the editor of the newspaper undertook a review of the column and made corrections.

I am providing you with the email exchange between Mr. Reckkio and Jessica Wickham, the Editor of Tompkins Weekly. This contains in its entirety the exchange had between Mr. Reckkio and Wickham. Note that in this email exchange Wickham’s final sign off to Mr. Reckkio was not in fear or intimidation, but rather thanks Mr. Reckkio and suggests that he should contact them again if similar issues arise.