



Friends of Bob Duffy • 80 Westminster Road • Rochester, New York 14607 • 546-1040

August 8, 2005

Ronald G. Evangelista
President
Rochester Police Locust Club Inc.
1425 Lexington Avenue
Rochester, NY 14606

Dear Ron:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Locust Club's Committee on Political Endorsements on August 16, 2005.

I wholeheartedly value and welcome the support of law enforcement officers throughout our community, especially the exceptional men and women of the Rochester Police Department in whose ranks I proudly served for twenty-eight years, seven of them as Chief. My affection and respect for the men and women of the Rochester Police Department is known by everyone in this community and remains unyielding. The support and encouragement I am now receiving from my former colleagues in my campaign for Mayor is gratifying, and I will always have a strong sense of loyalty to the fine professionals I've worked with over the years.

As I look back at the Rochester Police Department's accomplishments, I am pleased that we reinvigorated our relationship with the community we serve and initiated deployment strategies that helped make our citizens safer. Law enforcement is a noble profession and I am proud that during my tenure as Chief, the men and women of the Rochester Police Department were recognized for their extraordinary efforts with unprecedented increases in their salaries and other economic benefits.

During my years as Chief, you and I had many opportunities to find common ground in which we could work together to make our Department better for its members and our City safer for its citizens. Unfortunately, we were never able to realize that relationship. You opposed our attempts to diversify the Department, to collaborate with other agencies to make our streets safer, and to strengthen the sense of trust between the Department and the community. At the same time, you consistently demonstrated disrespect toward Mayor Johnson, the City Council, community leaders, and many of your colleagues, the very people who supported the Police Department throughout the years, in good times and bad.

I have had the opportunity to watch the Locust Club's endorsement process over the past few years, Mike Green's in particular, and have come to realize that the endorsement often reflects your personal judgment rather than that of the membership. Additionally, your comments to date with regard to the Mayor's race make it clear that this process will not be a fair and open one. Accordingly, I have decided not to seek your endorsement. Instead, I will continue to be grateful for the support that I have seen from the many retirees and RPD family members who are volunteers and donors to my campaign, and will seek the quiet support of the rank and file in the voting booth on September 13th and November 8th. The men and women of the Rochester Police Department and all of our citizens who value public safety will have no better advocate in City Hall if I am fortunate enough to be elected this fall.

Thank you for the opportunity and I wish you the very best in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Duffy
Candidate for Mayor

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