

February 29, 2000

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to inform the Town Manager, The Reading School Department, The Reading School Committee and the residents of the Town of Reading about the criminal behavior of the Town Electrician, Paul M. Roache and the cover-up by Dr. Harry Harrutunian.

It has been brought to my attention that Mr. Roache has been engaging in illegal and criminal behavior for the two years that he has been employed by the Town of Reading and the School Department. This has included working and driving while intoxicated on numerous, numerous occasions(as observed by employees of the School Department), operating a town vehicle after license suspension for O.U.I. (indicated in his driving record) and most recently purchasing supplies for a side job performed at Dr. Harry Harrutunian's personal residence in Beverly, Massachusetts. In other words, Mr. Roache used the School Departments charge account for personal use.

This unacceptable behavior has been brought to the attention of the Superintendent and the Director of Facilities as recently as February 28, 2000, and on other numerous occasions by various members of the School Department and fellow employees' however, Mr. Roache's actions have been covered up by Dr. Harrutunian. Perhaps this is because of lack of concrete evidence. This time the evidence speaks for itself, School Department Purchase Order Number 207-750. Dr. Harrutunian is aware of this and has chosen to do nothing. I now feel that the Town of Reading has a right to know what is going on and find out why Mr. Roache is still employed by the Town of Reading and the School Department.

According to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 266, Sec. 30, Mr. Roaches most recent actions should be considered Larceny, which is a criminal offense. This should result in immediate termination of employment and the implication of criminal charges against Mr. Roache. On Jan. 11, 2000, Mr. Roache used School Department Purchase Order Number 207-750 to purchase supplies including cable and telephone wire and various other supplies to perform work at Dr. Harrutunian's personal residence in Beverly, Massachusetts. Further investigation should show this has been done before for various members of the School Department without their knowledge.

At this time when the School Department is appealing to the Town of Reading for an increase in the school budget, Mr. Roache is out spending budget money for personal use and Dr. Harrutunian is choosing to cover it up.

Not only is this unethical behavior for a town employee, it is a criminal offense and the proper action should be taken. At the same time let us question Dr. Harrutunian's ethics. If the Reading School Department can fund additional telephone outlets and cable outlets at his house, I would like a few myself.

I urge the Town of Reading, both employees and residents to contact Dr. Harrutunian and see why this issue is being covered up and why Mr. Roache is still employed by the Town of Reading. I can only wonder if the March 7, 2000 vote has anything to do with it? That and the fact that the work was performed at Dr. Harrutunian's house.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

A Concerned Citizen