

Memorandum

To: Members of the Library Board
From: Mayor Carl Hokanson
Date: August 8, 2016
Re: Solider Kneeling Before the Cross

As you know a number of weeks ago I personally donated to the public library the wooden statute known as "Solider Kneeling at Cross."

This statue is one of many made available for public purchase. My personal donation was made without public funds. As one who served in the Marine Corp. I confess to a certain loyalty to the organization.

The image was donated without any direction by me as to use. Subsequently I became aware of the opposition of a member of the Borough Council who serves as liaison to the Library Board to the display.

Every elected official has every right to speak on First Amendment issues. Threats of litigation against Board members, however without the prior approval of the governing body is unauthorized.

It raises a more basic problem. Namely, the Council liaison serves as a representative for the entire governing body. That role cannot be compromised by threats of litigation by the individual or even her spouse.

At this point I am contemplating if a change in liaison to the Governing Body is necessary to insure the appropriate line of communication exists.

Finally, please understand you have my continuing appreciation for your dedication to the borough.