

348 Franklin Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-3731

January 5, 1987

JAN -6 AM 10:27

CAMBRIDGE MA

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

I understand that you, through a subcommittee of the whole, interviewed candidates for the position of Assistant City Clerk on December 30, 1986, and that you will vote on the appointment to the position on or after January 12, 1987.

Please record me as encouraging you to promote Donna to the position. I am painfully aware that I don't know her married name. Since her marriage, she has simply been Donna to me. Somehow the name of another person (her husband) has never attached in my mind.

Working with the City Clerk's Office over the years has not been merely a pleasure, it has been stunningly impressive. Paul and Joe are obviously extremely competent. Donna has been a shining star which has helped make them so competent.

Donna knows you, your requirements, and relevant law, by heart. I have watched her battle over the years to be certain that you were well served. She has been my, and the office's, principal source of information on your operation. She is a person who can be trusted and relied upon.

There is a difference between a clerk doing his/her job, and this aggressive person serving you and the public. While she is a proper and extremely courteous member of the bureaucracy, she is and always has been a leader, a decider, an aggressive public servant.

I do not recall ever being dissatisfied when I came to her or the City Clerk's office for assistance. In retrospective, her performance is overwhelming. I know that, if I come to the office and talk to any one who has trouble providing assistance, Donna will be there and the problem or question will be resolved. It may take time, but, subject to your pressing needs, she will devote the time and the work will get done.

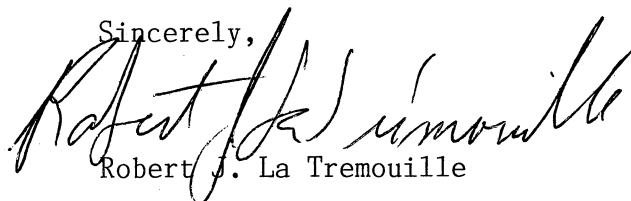
Since Donna's promotion, she (or Paul or Joe) has trained Mary to work in a similar, very impressive vein. Donna, however, remains the core and the driving factor in your operation in the City Clerk's Office.

You have embarked on a large scale search for a person to fill the office of Assistant City Clerk. That is good, proper and smart. A bureaucracy can be stultifying when people are, through mere time on the job, promoted to management.

The opposite, however, is also true. The morale of a bureaucracy can be destroyed if a brilliantly qualified person does not receive a well-earned promotion.

Donna is brilliantly qualified. People know the work she has performed and is capable of doing. She should be promoted.

Sincerely,



Robert J. La Tremouille

P.S. This letter has been in no manner solicited by any one. The people involved are not the type to do such organizing. The time has simply come when it seems appropriate to me to speak out.

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Comm. from Robert J. LaTremouille, Esq.,
encouraging the promotion & appointment of
Donna P. Lopez to the position of Deputy
City Clerk.

In City Council,

January 12, 1987

Placed on file