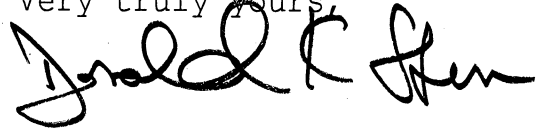


relevant information. One of those officers present was Kenneth Conley, who was convicted by a jury of committing perjury and corruptly obstructing the grand jury investigation of the deplorable civil rights violations inflicted on the beaten officer.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. I hope that this letter addresses the concerns of the City Council.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald K. Stern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donald" being the most prominent part.

DONALD K. STERN
United States Attorney



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of Massachusetts

Main Reception: (617) 748-3100

United States Courthouse, Suite 9200
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

April 5, 1999

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

This letter is in reply to your letter of March 22, 1999, forwarding the resolution of the Cambridge City Council of March 15, 1999. Please forward this letter to the members.

I appreciate the City Council members' concern about the usage of the term "paddy wagon" in the government's appellate brief in the case of United States v. Kenneth Conley. I can assure you that it was not used with knowledge of its possible negative connotation and thus was not intended to be used in any pejorative manner.

Indeed, it appears that others may not fully appreciate the potentially offensive nature of the term. For example, Justice William J. Brennan, writing an opinion for the United States Supreme Court in 1988, used the term paddy wagon (without quotations) referring to a police transport vehicle in describing the facts alleged by the plaintiff in the case of Felder v. Casey, 487 U.S. 131, 134 (1988). In fact, counsel for Kenneth Conley in the above-referenced case used the very same term in his examination of a witness in the trial.

While I appreciate the City Council's concern with the usage of a term in an appellate brief that some might find offensive, I would have thought that the Council's interest and concern with the Conley case might also extend to other issues. Apparently, the Council did not consider it necessary or appropriate to condemn the brutal beating and abandonment of a Boston plain clothes police officer by fellow officers, nor pass a resolution encouraging those officers who were present to come forward with

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
1999 APR -6 A 11: 21

Consent Communication #9 2705

A communication was received from Donald K. Stern, U.S. Attorney, transmitting a reply to the City Council's concern about the usage of the term "paddy wagon" in the government's appellate brief in the case of the United States v. Kenneth Conley.

In City Council April 12, 1999

PLACED ON FILE