



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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February 9, 1996

Robert W. Healy
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: *Council Communications Nos. 5 & 12 for the February 12, 1996 Meeting of the City Council*

Dear Mr. Healy:

Please be advised that the two City Council Communications referenced above relate to a matter which has been the subject of criminal proceedings in the District Court leading to the conviction of the referenced Toni Marie Angeli. Also be advised that it has been reported to me that on a number of occasions Ms. Angeli and her attorney, Mr. Swomley, have threatened to sue the City and the individual police officers involved in the incidents leading to her conviction. Given that threat of litigation, I strongly advise you, your staff, and the members of the City Council, to avoid comment on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Russell B. Higley

Russell B. Higley
City Solicitor

National Campaign for
Freedom of Expression

January 29, 1996

RECEIVED
MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
96 FEB -2 AM 10:17

Mayor Kenneth Reeves
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Reeves:

On behalf of the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression (NCFE), I am writing to express grave concern over the case of Toni Marie Angeli, who was arrested by Cambridge police officers at a photography lab in November.

It is our understanding that the photo lab interpreted some nude photos of Ms. Angeli's son as potential child pornography, and alerted the police. It is clear to us both that the photos do not fall in that category and that the manner in which she was arrested was brutal, unprofessional, and unnecessary.

Ironically, Ms. Angeli was ultimately not charged with child pornography, since the photos in question obviously failed to justify such a charge. Instead, she has been charged with disorderly conduct, assault and battery, and malicious destruction of property. However, the fault lies with the police more than with Ms. Angeli, whose resistance is understandable given the circumstances: she was being unjustly accused of child abuse in front of her husband and son, and the plainclothes officers failed to inform her at the outset that she was the suspect in the "crime" they were investigating. Ms. Angeli sustained physical injuries when a detective slammed her head into a door jamb in order to subdue her. This harassment and excessive use of force is inexcusable.

Immeasurable harm has already been done not only to Ms. Angeli and her family, but also to artistic freedom. NCFE urges you to see that all charges in this case are promptly dropped, and to take appropriate measures to ensure that such incidents will not re-occur. Please keep us informed of any action that you take in this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



David Mendoza
Executive Director

cc: Toni Marie Angeli
Kathie Florsheim
Leanne Katz, National Coalition Against Censorship
Robert B. Chatelle, National Writers Union

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1402 3rd Avenue #421 Seattle, Washington 98101
Phone: 206.340.9301 Fax: 206.340.4303

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Consent Communication #5

S-61

Communication was received from David Mendoza, Executive Director, National Campaign for Freedom of Expression transmitting concern over the case of Toni Marie Angeli, who was arrested by Cambridge Police officers at a photography lab in November.

In City Council February 12, 1996

Placed on File