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NASHUA BUSINESS LEADERS FILE COURT INJUNCTION TO REMOVE ILLEGAL PETITION FROM NOVEMBER BALLOT

Legal Filing Argues the Mayor and Petitioners Failed to Reach Minimum Number of Signatures to Place Controversial Police Commission Reform Issue on Ballot

NASHUA - A non-partisan group of business leaders, concerned citizens and law enforcement leaders have filed a court injunction against the fall ballot initiative attempting to change oversight of the Nashua Police Commission. The group believes the petitioners failed to reach the 10% minimum number of Nashua residents required in order to place this question before voters.

The injunction asks a judge to remove the entire question from the ballot based on not garnering enough petition signatures. Voters are being asked whether to support a plan to empower the Mayor to appoint members of the Nashua Police Commission. The change of control would also give the Mayor and Aldermanic Chair of Nashua the power to remove police commissioners without cause.

The court injunction paperwork argues the petition's 2,000+ signatures is only about one third of the signatures actually needed as outlined by the city charter.

"The question raised in this filing is a critical issue facing city leaders and needs clarification," explains Mike Soucy, a Nashua resident who joined the court filing. "We are operating off of different assumptions about how many signatures are needed to get any proposal on the city ballot. Knowing the rules is central to basic good government and we need a clear answer from the courts."

"As a business owner, public safety is a critical priority," explains Sandy Cleary, founder of SLC Group Holdings in Nashua. "The Nashua Police Department and the city Police Commission have an outstanding record of quality law enforcement, which is something that appears to be overlooked in this debate. We should not make any changes to the commission before examining impacts on safety. The Mayor has not provided the public with compelling or legitimate reasons for this change of control."

“We can discuss other ways to conduct oversight of the NPD, but our citizens and city leaders haven’t even had the conversation,” says Nashua Police Chief Michael Carignan. “This process of being rushed through without any real conversation, scrutiny or review. Let’s slow down and consider the consequences of such a significant reform.”

“Nashua Police Department is a respected, fully accredited department with well-trained, equipped and qualified officers,” says Rob Parsons, of Nashua. “All of this has been achieved with the oversight and guidance of the Nashua Police Commission, whose members are respected local leaders in our city. This proposed change makes no sense.”

The injunction request comes following a public push from dozens of business leaders and concerned residents sent a letter of opposition to Nashua Aldermen, who then voted to reject the proposed change of control over the Police Commission.

Of note, there are two former Attorneys Generals from Nashua who oppose this change of control. Kelly Ayotte wrote an editorial opposing the change of control. McLane law firm attorney Joe Foster helped file the injunction on behalf of plaintiffs.