

December 13, 2011

Dear Helen,

Thank you for recently meeting with me and my staff to discuss the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

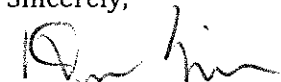
As I have noted before, I was incredibly proud to march along Washington Street and join our community in the great celebration of Irish heritage. You and the St. Patrick's Day Committee have done a great job organizing a beautiful parade. Unfortunately, the events surrounding the rest of the day dishonor the true meaning of the day. Residents and business owners suffer significant property damage and crime spikes to unacceptable levels, parents are afraid to let their children play outside, and many residents simply feel forced to leave town or close their businesses for the day.

My number one responsibility as Mayor is to keep our community safe, which is why I decided and announced in March that future St. Patrick's Day parades could only be held on a Wednesday. When we spoke last week, you indicated that you would be unable to organize the parade on a Wednesday and requested that it be permitted on a Saturday. After considering your request, I believe that the public safety concerns pose too much of a threat to our community, and I stand by my decision.

I hope you will reconsider and decide to continue with the parade on a Wednesday. My Administration is willing to work with you to overcome as many challenges as possible. If you are unable to continue the parade, I hope that you and committee members will consider working with my Administration as we plan a series of events to celebrate Irish culture and heritage in mid-March.

I know that this is disappointing to you and the parade committee, but please understand that I need to do what is necessary to keep our community safe. Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me and for your long-standing dedication to our community and Irish heritage.

Sincerely,


Mayor Zimmer