

JAMES B. MARTIN
District Attorney



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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July 9, 1999

Eugene Wrona, Esquire
1021 North Tenth Street
Whitehall, Pa. 18052

RE: Allegation of Alteration of Audio Tape

Dear Attorney Wrona:

Please accept my apology for not getting back to you earlier, but I only spoke with Judge Ford in the recent past. Apparently, he had lost a phone message from me about the alleged alteration of the audio tape recording of a hearing before the judge Judge Ford where you represented Farouk Z. Hamoui. After review of the documents that you provided to me, and in speaking with Judge Ford, it is the opinion of this office that there was not any criminal act which occurred related to the audio tape of the hearing.

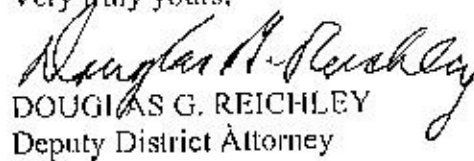
To be concise, it is not credible that any of the four people who may have possibly had possession of the audio tape from the hearing would have acted in any manner to alter the audio recording. Those four individuals include Judge Ford, his clerk Lucia Ano, Court Stenographer Susan Sherry, and Attorney Susan Maurer. With all due respect, it is nearly inconceivable to me that any of those four individuals would make the effort to alter the audio tape from this joint support and contempt violation hearing. While I understand that you sincerely believe that the tape does not reflect all of the questions and statements which were uttered during the joint hearing, I can only respond that based upon my own experience, at times the tape monitors do not pick up all statements made by individuals in a courtroom, and if more than one person is talking at the same time, the transcript and tape may only reflect one speaker's remarks. I have returned the items that you provided to me.

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but have retained a copy of them for our file purposes. Once again I apologize for not being able to get back to you earlier, and feel free to call me if you have any questions about this resolution of your complaint.

Very truly yours,


DOUGLAS G. REICHLEY
Deputy District Attorney

DGR/lmk
enclosures