

Court of Common Council



CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

Shawn T. Wooden, Council President
Alexander Aponte, Majority Leader
Larry Deutsch, Minority Leader

John V. Bazzano, Town and City Clerk

October 14, 2015

Kyle K. Anderson, Councilman
Joel Cruz, Jr., Councilman
Raúl De Jesús, Jr., Councilman
Cynthia R. Jennings, Councilwoman
Kenneth H. Kennedy, Jr., Councilman
David MacDonald, Councilman

Dear Mayor Segarra:

I write to urge you to exercise your Charter authority immediately to terminate the employment of Thomas Deller as Director of the Department of Development Services. Mr. Deller cannot function in that position any longer because he has completely forfeited the trust of the Council, of the public, and, I must assume, of the Mayor. As a result of his failure to spend taxpayer dollars appropriately, his failure to conduct adequate due diligence on Black Diamond and its principal, his failure to ascertain Black Diamond's ability to finance the project and his failure to inform the Council of material information related to the project, this action is appropriate to protect our City from further harm.

By Mr. Deller's own public admission, he has approved the expenditure of over \$1 million in City funds on invoices that should never have been approved. Although the last of those approved invoices was, fortuitously, not paid, the City is still out of pocket at least \$735,000.

By Mr. Deller's own public admission, he did not know how rapidly bills were being paid in connection with the Dillon Stadium fiasco until he was asked recently about the rate of expenditure.

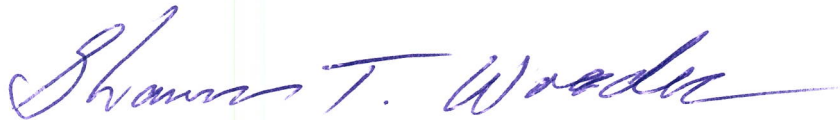
How can any of us have any confidence that the invoices that he may approve in the future, on any project, will be more carefully vetted? How can we trust that the office he runs will act as a careful steward of public funds in connection with the many ongoing projects that it currently supervises.

By Mr. Deller's own public admission, he withheld from the City Council committee considering the Dillon Stadium project obviously material information about Mr. Duckett's background. I assume, because you did not notify the Council of that information, that he withheld that information from you as well.

How can you expect the Council to give any weight to any future recommendation he may make in light of that abuse of his responsibility to the Council? How can you continue to employ him after he so badly failed the City's trust?

Although Mr. Deller's tenure may come to a natural end with the beginning of the new Administration in January, I strongly believe that you must act before then. Your failure to do so would constitute a rejection of the most fundamental principles of senior official accountability, and it would cripple your Administration's ability to proceed for the next ten weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shawn T. Wooden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Shawn T. Wooden
Council President

CC: Court of Common Council
Juan Figueroa, Chief of Staff to the Mayor