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August 26, 2008

Mr. Chris G. Paliare
Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstien LLP
250 University Avenue
Suite 501
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 3E5

Dear Mr. Paliare:

Re: Inquiry Committee Regarding the Honourable Mr. Justice Paul Cosgrove

I have known Justice Paul Cosgrove since he was first elected to Scarborough Council as an alderman in December of 1969. After completing his first term in office representing his area as alderman in 1972, he was elected as mayor of Scarborough in December for the term 1972 to 1974 and re-elected as mayor in 1976. He retired from Scarborough Council at the end of his third term in office on November 30, 1978. It was my pleasure to serve as alderman with him during those years.

The nine years during which I was affiliated with Paul Cosgrove gave me the opportunity to work very closely with him and observe him as he dealt with all manner of issues within his ward. My own tenure in office exceeded his by a few years, during which time I was able to discern that he was a person well qualified to serve the people. He did so with care and compassion.

Although we worked together during those years, our affiliation, indeed our friendship, has carried on to this day. Having served with seven mayors and one reeve in my time, I can truthfully say that Paul demonstrated that he was kind, thoughtful, generous and compassionate in his leadership of council and always deliberated on complex issues before zeroing in on the crux of the matter.

While these words ring true one might say, from a legal perspective, where is the evidence? I am a published author and am in the process of compiling a book on the urban history of Scarborough during the period 1960 to 1997. My research includes documentation of the years during which Mayor Cosgrove led Scarborough Council. The material, which is part of my personal archives, includes City of Scarborough reports,

major consultant's reports, as well as newspaper clippings which dealt with the issues of the time. It is through these reports and newspaper articles that one can see the evidence of a strong, compassionate person in action.

Justice Cosgrove's philosophy, during the 39 years which I have know him, has always been to make an extra effort to fully understand a situation whether it be in government or in everyday life. There is no doubt in my mind that the integrity, fairness and competence of Justice Cosgrove's character is above reproach.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Watson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ronald Watson