



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Brooklyn

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June 7, 2016

Via Federal Express and Fax

Honorable Margaret Markey
55-19 69th Street
Maspeth, New York 11378

Dear Ms. Markey,

If today's New York Daily News report is accurate, you have leveled a serious charge against me alleging that I attempted to bribe you several years ago in order to advance the political agenda of the Catholic Church.

Your accusation is patently false.

I am writing this letter to refresh your memory as to our conversation 9 years ago, and to demand your immediate retraction of your defamatory statements.

You told the Daily News that in a meeting in 2010 I offered you \$5,000 to drop your push to reform New York State's statute of limitations for crimes of sexual abuse against minors. The meeting you are referring to actually took place on December 10, 2007 at the Chancery Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn located at 75 Greene Avenue in Brooklyn and not Bishop Ford High School as you claim. In addition to you and I, Monsignor Kieran Harrington, Assembly Member Joseph Lentol, Assembly Member Vito Lopez, Richard Barnes who is executive director of the NYS Catholic Conference, and Sister Ellen Patricia Finn, OP, a dedicated victims advocate and a former employee of Catholic Charities, were present at that meeting. The meeting was arranged to discuss policy implications of your proposed legislation.

Immediately following this broader meeting, I met separately with you and Sister Ellen Patricia who at the time was the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Brooklyn. This smaller, private meeting was arranged to discuss a matter deeply personal to you. In that meeting, I spoke of the counseling services and support the Church offers to victims of abuse with no conditions. There was absolutely no offer of money nor a quid pro quo.

Sister Ellen Patricia—the only other person present in that meeting—has provided our diocesan attorney with a statement. Her recollection supports my memory.

Sister Ellen Patricia is no longer employed by the Diocese of Brooklyn, nor under the authority of the Bishop of Brooklyn. She is a dedicated victim's advocate. Sister has no reason to support my story other than a commitment to the truth. Sister Ellen Patricia remembers the conversation from 9 years ago just as I do—there was absolutely no offer of money made.

The Daily News chose to put your unsubstantiated accusation on its front page, putting the sale of newspapers, and the political agenda of its editors above journalistic integrity. In this, my character has been impugned and my name slandered as the Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Ironically, by turning a conversation from 9 years ago into front page "news" serves to demonstrate why statutes of limitations exist in our justice system. Memories fade, witnesses die, and evidence gets lost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicholas DiMarzio".

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
Bishop of Brooklyn