

VICTOR J. YANNAKONE
VICTOR JOHN YANNAKONE, JR.

39 BAKER STREET
PATCHOGUE, N. Y. 11772
AREA CODE 516 - GROVER 5-0231

April 27, 1968

NEWSDAY
Garden City,
New York 11530

ATTENTION Harry F. Guggenheim, President, Editor in Chief
Bill D. Moyers, Vice President, Publisher

re: Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts

Gentlemen:

In the hope that the actions of NEWSDAY reporters Crow and Donovan at our office on the evening of April 25, 1968, do not represent the policy of NEWSDAY, the undersigned, together with Maestro Earl Snow and James E. Colaneri, are still willing to answer any and all questions which NEWSDAY may care to ask, to such extent as we are individually or collectively knowledgeable concerning the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts and our activities on its behalf. We are also prepared to permit the examination of any and all records which we possess relating to the activities of the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts, and our activities as individuals in connection with the Council.

In view of the public service nature of the activities of the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts, and its unique position in the cultural development of Brookhaven Town and Suffolk County, it was agreed in preliminary discussions with NEWSDAY reporter Greene on April 18, 1968, and NEWSDAY reporter Crow on April 23, 1968, that the activities of the Council would be discussed at length in a manner which would not compromise the non-political nature of the Council's activities.

To that end, it was agreed conference would be recorded, transcribed and certified by a Stenotype Reporter employed professionally as an official Court Reporter. We agreed to provide the Court Reporter and furnish copies of the transcript without charge to NEWSDAY, as well as make the transcript available to the general public for examination on request. It was also agreed, that, by way of introduction, the entire development of the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts would be traced, as would all the activities of the Council since it was created. It was further agreed there would be no limit to the questions NEWSDAY might ask, and all would be answered without reservation to the extent of the individual and collective knowledge of the Council members present at the conference.

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NEWSDAY reporter Greene indicated that the information had to be furnished during the week of April 22, 1968 to conform to NEWSDAY's publishing schedule, and the undersigned agreed to contact those members of the Council on the Arts who could contribute information and who were not elected officials or appointees of the Brookhaven Town political administration.

The undersigned contacted Maestro Snow and Mr. Colaneri who both agreed to attend, and Paul Olinkiewicz who said that he would not be able to attend. Mr. Colaneri contacted Robert Leahy and Mrs. Jane Des Grange who both said that they would be unable to attend.

In view of the commercial position of NEWSDAY, as one of three daily papers generally concerned with reporting the local activities of the Town of Brookhaven, and in view of the public record nature of all the material assembled by the undersigned, Maestro Snow and Mr. Colaneri, as representatives of the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts, representatives of THE SUFFOLK SUN and the LONG ISLAND PRESS were also invited and advised that they too would be permitted to question at will with reference to the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts.

When NEWSDAY reporters Crow and Donovan arrived, they were introduced to all present, the Reporter, Mr. Thoreen, an official reporter for the New York State Workmen's Compensation Board, Maestro Snow, Mr. Colaneri, SUFFOLK SUN reporter Bruce Reisman, and LONG ISLAND PRESS reporter Don Meyers.

NEWSDAY reporters Crow and Donovan stated that they would not participate in any discussion about the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts at which any other representatives of the press were present, stating that they did not intend to reveal the results of their investigations for NEWSDAY to any other newspaper.

Recognizing the intensely competitive nature of the daily newspaper business, the undersigned immediately advised NEWSDAY reporters Crow and Donovan that no attempt would be made to question them or secure information as to any investigations they might have conducted, but that all the records of the Council on the Arts of the Town of Brookhaven had been assembled that were available to those representatives of the Council present (an accumulation of file folders approximately ten feet in length) and that the representatives of the Council were present not for the purpose of asking questions but answering them, and would stand ready, willing and able to answer any and all questions on which they had knowledge concerning the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts.

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NEWSDAY reporters Crow and Donovan said they were not interested in hearing any statements or speeches and would not participate in any conference in which any other representatives of the press would be present. The undersigned again offered to answer any questions about the Council on the Arts without any attempt to ascertain private NEWSDAY information, at which point, NEWSDAY reporters Crow and Donovan rudely left the meeting.

For more than two hours, Maestro Snow, Mr. Colaneri and the undersigned recounted the development and activities of the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts. Any and all fees received by the undersigned, Maestro Snow or Mr. Colaneri for any services performed for the Town of Brookhaven were disclosed and the undersigned presented for examination his personal income tax returns from 1953 through 1967.

Any and all questions raised during the course of the conference by SUFFOLK SUN reporter Reisman and LONG ISLAND PRESS reporter Meyers were answered, and a full stenotype record of the conference was made. A certified copy of the transcript will be furnished to NEWSDAY without charge in accordance with our original agreement as soon as it is transcribed.

If NEWSDAY is sincerely interested in examining the activities of the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts and is interested in hearing of those activities from those who were responsible for the actual presentation of the public performances and participated in the organization and development of the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts, then the undersigned, Victor John Yannacone, jr., Maestro Earl Snow and James E. Colaneri, are still ready and willing to meet with representatives of NEWSDAY, in the public interest, to discuss the activities of the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts. We are still willing to answer any and all questions relating to the Brookhaven Town Council on the Arts and our activities in connection therewith, so far as we are individually and collectively knowledgeable, provided that the full conference is recorded and transcribed by a Stenotype Reporter, professionally employed as an Official Court Reporter, and that the meeting is open to any of the representatives of the daily press serving Brookhaven Town.

In addition, as originally agreed with NEWSDAY reporter Greene, the undersigned is willing, at the same occasion, or a different occasion, subject to the same conditions of personal knowledge and full public disclosure, to review any and all work performed on behalf of the Town of Brookhaven since the undersigned's first assignment as a special Town Attorney in 1960, and continuing through this date.

YANNAKONE & YANNAKONE

Attorneys and Counsellors at Law

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Any and all files in the possession of the undersigned relating to services performed for the Town of Brookhaven are, of course, public records, and may be examined as public records by NEWSDAY reporters or any other interested resident of the Town of Brookhaven.

Very truly yours,

VICTOR JOHN YANNAKONE, jr.

REGISTERED MAIL :
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

cc: Maestro Eari Snow
Belle Terre, New York 11777

Mr. James E. Colaneri
Shoreham, New York 11786

THE SUFFOLK SUN
Attention: Mr. Bruce Reisman
Deer Park, New York 11729

THE LONG ISLAND DRESS
Attention: Mr. Don Meyers
92-24 168th Street, Jamaica, N.Y.

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