



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Information Technology Investment Board

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June 26, 2009

The Honorable Samuel A. Nixon, Jr.
Member, Virginia House of Delegates
Post Office Box 34908
Richmond, Virginia 23234

Delegate Nixon:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 18 expressing concern regarding the appointment of Len Pomata as Interim Chief Information Officer (CIO) by the Information Technology Investment Board (Board). Please let me share the reasons for the Board's actions for removing Lem Stewart from the Chief Information Officer (CIO) position and appointing Secretary Pomata as Interim CIO.

The Board has been aware of the challenges with the progress of the IT infrastructure program with Northrop Grumman. We routinely receive updates from Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and Northrop Grumman staffs. We also have a Board committee that reviews the program in depth. The Board asked Mr. Stewart for options in dealing with one of the issues of non-performance. Mr. Stewart provided only one option – to return the Northrop Grumman invoice, which essentially would stop payment to the company. The Board asked for time to look at other options, but was told by Mr. Stewart that he was going to use his authority as CIO to stop payment. The CIO has the authority to return an invoice, regardless of the desire of the Board. Board members, without objection, believed we had to take action to remove Mr. Stewart to avoid a major rift in the program with Northrop Grumman.

To alleviate concerns about a potential or a perceived conflict of interest in having Secretary Pomata serve as Secretary of Technology and Interim CIO, the Board has removed Secretary Pomata from all Board committees during this interim period. Secretary Pomata, on advice of Board counsel, also will recuse himself when there is any apparent or actual conflict.

The Board is moving forward to hire a new CIO. We expect interviews will be conducted in July and hope for announcement of a new CIO no later than the end of August.

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The Board, whose members have decades of IT, executive leadership, private sector and public experience, understands the nature of its action and its obligation to maintain an independent position. We take this obligation very seriously. Thank you very much for your past and continuing support of the Board, VITA and the IT Infrastructure Partnership. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



James W. McGuirk, II
Chairman

- c: The Honorable William J. Howell, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
- The Honorable Joe T. May, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
- The Honorable Kathy J. Bryon, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
- The Honorable Walter a. Stosch, Member, Senate of Virginia
- The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Member, Senate of Virginia
- The Honorable Leonard M. Pomata, Secretary of Technology
- The Honorable Richard D. Brown, Secretary of Finance
- The Honorable Wayne M. Turnage, Chief of Staff
- Members of the Information Technology Investment Board
- Ms. Marcella Williamson, Virginia Information Technologies Agency