

Len Duvall AM, Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee

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15 February 2013

Dear Boris

Appointment of Mr Ray Lewis as Senior Adviser, Mentoring

At the GLA Oversight Committee meeting on 29 January 2012, Members noted your appointment of Ray Lewis's as Senior Adviser, Mentoring.

Before Mr Lewis resigned as your Deputy Mayor of London for Young People in 2008, you proposed that an inquiry to be undertaken by Martin Narey, former head of the Prison and Probation Service, into the allegations that had been made about Mr Lewis. These included:

- financial irregularities;
- inappropriate behaviour;
- claiming to be a magistrate; and
- reports of assaults and child cruelty.

Upon his resignation, it appears you ceased the planned inquiry into Mr Lewis and I would therefore be grateful if you could let me know how you have satisfied yourself that the allegations are without basis when you felt they merited an inquiry in 2008 and Mr Lewis felt he needed to resign.

Yours sincerely

Len Duvall AM
Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee

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Our ref: MGLA190213-9650

Date: 11 MAR 2013

Dear Len

Appointment of Ray Lewis as Senior Advisor, Mentoring

Thank you for your letter of 15 February. I enclose the letter I sent to Jennette Arnold on this subject on 11 October 2011 to which I had no response.

I am delighted to have appointed Ray Lewis as my Senior Adviser, Mentoring and to have such a talented individual on my team helping me to deliver my ambitious programme for mentoring young people in London. I am absolutely satisfied that Ray will be able to play a key role.

I did propose an independent investigation into the allegations in 2008 whilst Ray was employed as a Deputy Mayor. But I said at MQT on 16 July 2008 that as he was no longer an employee it seemed unreasonable and indeed impossible to justify spending taxpayers' money on an enquiry into his background. In 2008 it was unclear what the allegations were and how these might impact on Ray's full-time role as Deputy Mayor.

Five years on and there has been no evidence produced to substantiate the allegations. Jennette Arnold wrote to me on 4 October 2011 repeating a number of allegations. I answered her fully on 11 October and invited her to produce evidence of allegations, which I note you are repeating, or else withdraw them. As I said above, I have received no response and I note the Assembly Oversight Committee, which you chair, made no attempt to follow up or question Ray Lewis about any of these allegations when he was before you as recently as 19 December, nor at previous public Assembly hearings on the Mentoring programme.

Between 2010-2012 Ray worked for me as an unpaid Mentoring Ambassador for two years and during the interview for the one day a week paid role he is now performing the Panel, chaired by Sir Edward Lister, sought explicit assurances from him that there were no recent or current police enquiries about which we should be aware. They asked whether the Eastside Board of Trustees had taken or were taking any actions in relation to him and they asked whether he had declared all potential conflicts of interest on his register of interest form. He gave assurances in all cases.

Taken together with the earlier information set out in my letter of 11 October 2011, and the fact that he has worked on a voluntary basis for the last two years, I consider I now have all the assurance I need about Ray's commitment and integrity.

You will also no doubt be aware from recent blog coverage that the Bishop of Barking wrote to me in June 2010 and said "What I said to you in our conversation was that he should be given a second chance but should not be given too high a responsibility and he should be given a good and supportive accountability structure in which to work. Because Ray is a controversial character there may be some opposition even to this more contained role within City Hall." You have certainly proved the Bishop right!

However, I am more interested in the important role that Ray can play to help young black boys improve their lives than in defending unsubstantiated, past allegations. Therefore, he is now carrying out his part-time role in support of my Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture who will work closely with him. He should be allowed to get on with the job.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

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Jennette Arnold OBE, AM
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Our ref: MGLA061011-0724

Date: 11 OCT 2011

Dear Jennette

I write in response to your letter dated 4 October 2011.

Your letter repeats a number of very serious allegations that have been made against Ray Lewis, my Mentoring Ambassador, since I first introduced him to my Mayoral team over three years ago.

I am using this letter to state on record the following:

- I am not aware of any current police investigation into Ray of any kind, and the Metropolitan Police Service has not raised with me any allegations against him whatsoever. The board of Eastside also continues to affirm its strong support for Ray's leadership.
- Eastside has a child protection record which its Board of Trustees, past and present, stand by. It is no secret that there have been some complaints in the past by some children at the Academy – hardly surprising perhaps in circumstances where Eastside adopt a firm disciplinary regime. All these complaints were investigated by Newham. In all cases, the investigations concluded with no further action to be taken; and in the vast majority of cases, the complaints were not substantiated. More generally, Ray Lewis has made it clear that Eastside would welcome external validation of their approach.
- The Guardian article you cite gives a completely misleading impression of the context in which certain offensive words were used. Far from being handled about in a casual way, my understanding is that the words were taken out of context – deliberately or otherwise. The words were used as part of a carefully scripted session about linguistic prejudice, which Eastside runs regularly for pupils. This session was attended by Eastside staff who are willing to testify to this. Ray Lewis has made it clear that he does not condone the use of such language – and hence the lesson. I take exactly the same view, as I made clear when you last raised this.
- Eastside continues to enjoy significant backing from major charitable foundations such as Shine and Future. The organisation has produced outstanding results for London's black boys and wins praise from parents and teachers alike. Whilst some people may not like its 'tough love' approach and emphasis on discipline, its achievements are well recognised.

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- You claim that Ray has misled me on 'at least one occasion', by which I presume you are referring to his statement about being a Justice of the Peace. To clarify, Ray did receive a letter dated 1st May 2008 from the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee stating that they were minded to forward his name to the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor for possible appointment as a Justice of the Peace in the North East London Area; and that ... 'The Committee will decide which bench to recommend in due course.' Ray interpreted this as a letter of appointment and therefore, acting in good faith, noted it on his GLA register of interests. It was this premature but entirely innocent declaration that was later misinterpreted by the press as him 'lying' about his CV.

It saddens me that Ray, one of the most respected figures in London's black community and someone who has devoted much of his life to caring for vulnerable young boys, is being traduced by nasty, cynical and politically motivated attacks.

In this country a man is innocent till proven guilty. Unless you are able to produce evidence that stands up in a court of law, in which case you should report it to the police, I ask that you withdraw your allegations immediately.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London