



The
Alliance for Safe Communities
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August 18th, 2011

Dear Editor,

As Director of the Alliance for Safe Communities I attended a town hall style meeting on August 16th hosted by Congressman James Langevin. The meeting was held in the Silver Lake Community Center, in Providence. ASC has been working closely with this community regarding their issues and concerns surrounding safe neighborhoods. Mr. Langevin's agenda included a "Question and Answer" session to discuss issues on people's minds and address concerns about the current economic uncertainty.

ASC has long had concerns regarding Mr. Langevin's support for a significant amount of federal funds that were allocated to a non-profit in this neighborhood, Open Doors. I asked a direct question regarding this issue, as it impacts not only the residents of Silver Lake, but also tax payers all across Rhode Island.

"Open Doors is a federally subsidized project that opens 19 units housing former inmates in the heart of Silver Lake. It is my understanding that you support this development. However Open Doors' Executive Director, Ms. Rodrigues, denies your involvement. What would be a correct statement of the facts?"

Congressmen Langevin replied. "I don't know what you are referring to, but I will have someone get back to you."

I continued. "Are you aware of the publication *Inside Out*, an Open Doors news paper which offered election time candidates' surveys regarding issues of re-entry opportunities for formerly incarcerated?"

Again Congressmen Langevin replied. "I am unaware"

I attempted to refresh his memory by citing a copy of the publication, saying. "Mr. Langevin your survey was published with a photo. The article stated you support opportunities for former inmates in education at all levels as well as job opportunities in the coming years in fields like biotech, electronic medical records, and green energy. "

Congressmen Langevin again answered. "I don't remember, I will have someone from my campaign get back to you."

Many fiscally conservative organizations were present as well as individuals from a number of demographics. Much to the surprise of ASC the climate was tense and attendees were determined and consistent with a battery of questions regarding our current economy. Many if not most were neither impressed nor satisfied with their Representative's answers to the questions posed. ASC shared the frustration of these organizations with Mr. Langevin's elusive responses.

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Today ASC received an E-Mail from Congressman Langevin's office. Correspondence from his Constituent Service Director informed us that they have been unable to "put their hands on a copy of the survey or newsletter from Open Doors". The note asked if it would be possible for us to forward a copy.

A response of this type begs the question, is the congressmen unable or unwilling to fulfill such a simple request.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Medeiros
Director
The Alliance for Safe Communities

ASC-RI is a non-profit dedicated to assisting Communities to achieve the promise of a safe environment that is made to them by government.

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