



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

132 JERSEYVILLE AVENUE
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728-2374

(732) 431-7160

RAYMOND S. SANTIAGO
MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

August 27, 2024.

Athina L. Cornell, Esq.
Methfessel & Werbel
2025 Lincoln Highway, Suite 200
P.O. Box 3012
Edison, New Jersey 08818

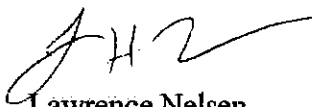
Re: Wall Twp. Schools Trailers
PO1902680

Dear Ms. Cornell:

I have reviewed the documentation provided to the Wall Township Board of Education on August 20, 2024 regarding the trailers and an allegation of forgery. Our office closed its investigation into the trailers in November of 2020. Attached is a copy of the letter by Assistant Prosecutor Suppa dated November 4, 2020, explaining the reasons for the closure. Based on my review of the documents submitted to the board on August 20, my office will not be reopening the investigation into the trailers. Any allegation of forgery occurring back in 2008 would be outside the statute of limitations to bring criminal charges. If the community members who provided these documents would like to discuss the matter, they can reach out to Sgt. Elethia Baldwin at 732-431-7160 ext. 6349, or via email EBaldwin@mcponj.org.

Very truly yours,

RAYMOND S. SANTIAGO
MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

By: 
Lawrence Nelsen
Director, Assistant Prosecutor
Financial Crimes/Special Prosecutions Unit



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LORI LINSKEY
FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR
MICHAEL J. WOJCIECHOWSKI
DEPUTY FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

JOHN G McCABE JR.
CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

CHRISTOPHER J. GRAMICIONI
MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

November 4, 2020

Wall Township, NJ 07719

Wall Township, NJ 07719

Wall Township, NJ 08724

Spring Lake, NJ 07762

Re: Wall Township/PO1902680

On August 23, 2019, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office was in receipt of an email which noted the conditions of two trailers behind the Central Elementary School in Wall Township. An investigation ensued and a meeting was conducted on October 23, 2019. From that date, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office received numerous documents, emails, and telephone calls regarding the aforementioned concern. A thorough assessment of the investigation was conducted. This included; but, was not limited to a full analysis of all records, documents, interviews, and investigative reports. From this analysis the following was noted and concluded:

In order for the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office to initiate an investigation and prosecute an individual(s) for a crime, there must be a criminal act in addition to criminal intent. With this foundation, the focus of this investigation was narrowed to one issue; that being whether the members of the Wall Township Board of Education (more specifically the Business Administrator) were withholding information regarding the status and repairs to the trailers and said concealment was to cover up criminal activity. Within this articulated complaint, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office investigated whether the procurement of the trailers, and the improper bidding for repairs for the trailer, resulted in fraudulent criminal activity, by way of a "kickback" scheme, that would ultimately have a corrosive effect on the procurement process. The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office is not

a regulatory agency for health and safety issues and as such, we did not conduct a direct investigation into why student safety was not being prioritized.

Respectfully, it bears noting that there is confusion regarding the responsibility/role of a law enforcement agency with other regulatory agencies. It must be emphasized that the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office will not pursue ethics complaints or investigate fiscal responsibility of school districts. We will not investigate the lack of compliance with bidding regulations or render an opinion on the conditions of the trailers. Any violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A1, et seq. or N.J.A.C 5:34-1 et seq. are to be fielded by the Department of Education or School Ethics Commission. The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office is bound to investigate crimes and one is not to conflate the concept of negligence with criminal intent.

That being said, our investigation has revealed no evidence of any fraudulent criminal activity. There is no evidence of bribery; theft; official misconduct; money laundering; or a conspiracy to commit these crimes, on behalf of any members of the Wall Township Board of Education. There is absolutely no evidence of illegal, self-serving conduct by any member that was criminal in nature. Moreover, the procurement of the trailers in 2007, and any alleged crime with that purchase, is well outside the statute of limitations. Based on this assessment, we have submitted our matter for closure.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTOPHER J. GRAMICCIONI
MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

File

By: Barbara Suppa
Assistant Prosecutor
Director of Special Prosecutions