



*Town of Westerly*  
*Rhode Island*

MAY 12 1999

*Ernest M. Zymslinski*  
*Office of the Town Manager*

May 5, 1999

Mr. James Reilly, Asst. Executive Director  
Rhode Island Employees' Retirement System  
40 Fountain Street  
Providence, RI 02903

*RE: Patricia A. Douglas, Town Councilor*  
*Town of Westerly, Rhode Island*

Dear Mr. Reilly:

A request has been made by Councilor Patricia A. Douglas of the Town of Westerly to write to you concerning her right to participate in the Rhode Island Employees' Retirement System. Mrs. Douglas is presently serving her seventh consecutive Town Council term (14 years) in the Town of Westerly.

Mrs. Douglas has related to me that on June 16, 1997 she attended a meeting at your office with Mario Turco, a former employee of the Town of Westerly who handled budget/management affairs with the State of Rhode Island for the Town of Westerly for many years. At that meeting, it was apparently concluded that Mrs. Douglas was entitled to a pension and that the pension would be calculated based on the general laws of the Rhode Island 45-21.17.

Councilor Douglas has obtained a legal opinion (copy attached) from the Town Solicitor stating that:

- It is quite clear at this point that Mrs. Douglas was never notified by the Town of Westerly nor did she have any knowledge of the fact that she would be entitled to enter the Rhode Island Employees' Retirement System.
- Erroneously, she was not offered the opportunity to join the system by the Town of Westerly at any time during her tenure.

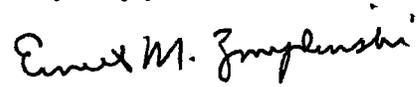
Based upon the circumstances of this case, I am requesting that you advise me of the necessary procedures to allow Councilor Douglas to enter the Employees' Retirement System and to buy back all time served as a Town Councilor in the Town of Westerly.

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Mr. James Reilly  
Page 2  
April 28, 1999

May I hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,



Ernest M. Zmyslinski  
Town Manager

EMZ/ds

Enclosure

pc: Patricia A. Douglas, Town Councilor  
F. Thomas Lenihan, Town Solicitor