

STIGMATINE FATHERS AND BROTHERS

554 LEXINGTON STREET
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02542

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

June 9, 2017

Hon. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and

Waltham City Council

c/o Assistant City Clerk
610 Main Street
City Hall Second Floor
Waltham, MA 02452

Dear Mayor McCarthy and Waltham City Council Members,

I only learned today that continued discussion of the Stigmatine property was added to the Council Agenda for the June 12, 2017 Council meeting. I regret that I am unable to attend, as I would very much like to be present. However, unfortunately I can't untangle myself from a longstanding commitment that depends on my attendance.

Allow me to address two topics that have been brought to my attention:

On June 7, 2017, the Mayor sent a renewed offer for the City to purchase our property, for \$20 million. In response, I wish to affirm what has been stated repeatedly on May 15, 2017 in Council Chambers, and in my May 16, 2017, letter to the *Citizens of the City of Waltham* (copy attached): no part of the Stigmatine property at 554 Lexington Street is presently for sale, for any amount of money. We wish to continue our ministry as we have been doing, without interference from the City.

This ordeal has and continues to cause the Stigmatine community harm. This relentless pursuit of our property by the City has cost us dearly, both financially and emotionally and must stop. It has been very hurtful to see and hear City and School officials discussing amongst themselves at meetings the number, age and capabilities of our Priests and weighing that against the value of a new high school. It is as though the City has taken it upon itself, in a public forum no less, to determine whether it is time for the Stigmatines to go. We are being unfairly singled out, and marginalized in the process, all because the City desires our property.

Our response may not please the City or fit with the School Committee's agenda, but it allows the Stigmatines to continue our ministry at the property and continue to live in our home of almost 100 years.

I understand the strong emotions this topic has generated among many citizens of Waltham. I want to reiterate that there are no plans to develop the property and there was never any follow-up to the one developer we

received a letter of interest from once the Mayor became involved. There were never any discussions about thirty acres or about permitting. We entered into good faith, exclusive, negotiations with the City, putting our money behind working up a proposal for approval by our Superior General in Rome. That's what the bullet point memo says. Rome rejected that proposal. The Stigmatines and the Mayor, and her counsel, always knew that we needed approval from Rome to agree to any kind of a sale, and that's why the bullet point memo was written the way it was.

The Stigmatines regret this turmoil and hope that you can bring closure to this matter by confirming your May 15 and May 22, 2017, votes that rejected a forced seizure of the Stigmatine property.

The second item I wish to briefly comment on is in reference to City Council Docket – June 12, 2017: Communications from the Mayor, #10. It appears to ask the City Council to negotiate the purchase of the Stigmatine property. Based upon what I stated above, at this time there is nothing to negotiate. But, as I have also stated, if, in the future, the Stigmatines reconsider our intentions, the City would be the first entity to be informed and involved in any such process.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter and your assistance. May our Lord continue to guide your deliberations and service to the City of Waltham.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert S. White, C.S.S." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Reverend Robert S. White, C.S.S.
Provincial