



MAYOR DANIEL RIVERA STATEMENT ON CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR SUNUNU

March 2nd, 2017

Mayor Rivera's Comments after speaking to Governor Sununu

Today I had a phone conversation with Governor Sununu. It was a productive conversation in which he insured me his naming of Lawrence in his statement yesterday was not to impugn Lawrence in any way. He also said the statistics he used was what Law Enforcement was telling him. I encouraged him to review the tape of his comments and to see how it came off. It appeared that he was sending a warning that he was coming for Lawrence. We discussed his desire to deal with his States Opioid addiction problem and that he wanted to focus more resources and energy on enforcement. I invited him to come to Lawrence to see what we are doing here on that front. I ensured him that the Lawrence Police Department is doing all that they can to make Lawrence an inhospitable place to buy and sell drugs and they work closely with DEA, ATF, FBI, and all the regional State Police Departments. I am hopeful he will come to Lawrence and see for himself.

Lastly and most importantly I reiterated my 3 concerns about his comments. 1. That we cannot arrest our way out of this problem. We need to discuss how many more long term, inpatient and outpatient (6-9 month) treatment beds and programs they have in New Hampshire and in Massachusetts and how we can increase them. This cannot be a supply side solution only this must be a majority Demand side solution effort. 2. No one jurisdiction can deal with this matter alone and for us to start pointing fingers at each other is counterproductive. I do look forward to talking to him about how we can better work together. 3. That he should be more thoughtful and measured with his statements they have serious implications.

After our call, I remain hopeful that Governor Sununu and I can work together to deal with the problems facing our communities.