

STATEMENT OF RALPH PAPITTO

July 17, 2007

I wish to re-state and re-affirm my sincerest apology for the racially insensitive remark I made in May at a private meeting of trustees of Roger Williams University.

I deeply regret the pain that this remark has caused those in the African American community and other minorities.. This remark in no way reflects my deep respect for the African American community and for the many contributions African Americans have made to our society.

I also wish to state that this is a truly isolated incident. I flatly repudiate allegations that this sort of comment in any way characterizes my conversational traits or behavior.

Second only to the regret I have for the hurt this has caused in our African American community is the dismay I have at the damage it has caused to the University that I have loved and served for nearly 40 years. I apologize once again to the entire University community for the cloud that this controversy has created around Roger Williams University.

Over the past several days I have done much soul searching and reflection. As I have indicated repeatedly, I take full responsibility for this matter and ask for understanding from the community.

Much of my reflection has centered on how I might mitigate the damage that this controversy has and continues to have on Roger Williams University. I learned as a young man that the best way to handle a mistake is to admit it, as I have, take responsibility, as I have, and bear the consequences, as I will.

I am of course aware of the concern that many have in the community over the fact that the Roger Williams law school bears my name. I do not want this controversy, which at present is running out of control, to further the damage already caused to the University.

A continued public discussion and debate over the name of the law school serves only to further damage the University. Therefore, and as a reflection of the sincerity of my regret and of my deep commitment to Roger Williams University, I have today asked the Board of Trustees to remove my name from the law school.

What is most important to me is the continued success of Roger Williams University. I am proud of the contributions I have made to Roger Williams over the past four decades, and I earnestly hope that this decision will allow the University to get on

with the business of further developing what has become one of the finest educational institutions in New England.

Finally, I wish to thank those in the community who have expressed their understanding and support to me over the past several days, and who believe in the sincerity of the decision I have announced today.