**BOB FIORETTI STATEMENT ON CONWAY DECEPTIVE MAILERS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT NATHANIEL HOLCOM 773-383-2164**

During this campaign, I have promised that as state’s attorney I will hold people accountable whether they are accused of carjacking or even if they cross the legal line in a civil matter. That accountability begins now.

Today, I’m holding Bill Conway accountable for demonstrably false libelous mailings sent to voters in what appears to be an attempt to defame me and my record.

Bill Conway promised a “new way”. Turns out the new way is the same as the old way.

Lies, half-truths, and deceptive campaign practices have been the hallmark of the machine for a half century or more. Bill Conway the third and his dad’s millions decided to become the machine on steroids.

I sat back when Conway exaggerated his military record. His misleading claims of prosecuting cops, in cases assigned to him by a superior, who committed off-duty crimes are an attempt to hoodwink minority voters into believing he cares about police brutality. He brags about prosecuting a few lower level bureaucrats hoping voters believe he is a latter-day Elliot Ness. His sob story about being “raised by a single mother” without mentioning his billionaire father at the same time is a pathetic attempt to convince voters raised by working class parents or those in poverty that his situation was similar.

That’s politics as usual. We’ve all seen lots of con men try to buy their way into office, either with their own or their dad’s money. That’s shameful but not actionable except by the voters.

But the claims made by these mailers are a different story. They cross a line. Alleging that I committed a corrupt act because unnamed “aldermen” raked in campaign contributions after the parking meter vote is beyond the pale, and it can not stand. Billionaire bullies always count on people not fighting back. Apparently they don’t know me very well.

As alderman, I was fiercely independent and proudly went above and beyond the ethical requirements of my office. I routinely returned campaign contributions from developers seeking my approval for their developments in my ward. I let potential legal clients know upfront if they were hiring my firm to get favor on a city matter, we would not represent them. No Alderman ever worked harder to separate governmental duties from politics and campaign money than I did. I will not have a rich kid using dad’s money to falsely besmirch my record.

Some politicians are corrupt. So are some hedge fund operators. Lumping all politicians together, indeed all “Aldermen,” would be like comparing Bill Conway’s dad to Gordon Gekko or Michael Milken. I have not done so and would never do so as a campaign tactic.

Negative campaigning is part of the world we live in. Lying about an opponent is not. Making up allegations out of whole cloth is not. Misleading voters merely to win an election is what machine politicians do. Or billionaire’s kids apparently.

Am I angry about this? Who wouldn’t be? More than that, I’m saddened that Bill Conway can’t run on his meager record of accomplishment and decided to lower himself to this. I’m sad, too, for the voters who are bombarded with garbage like this from candidates like Conway who are unfit for any office.

Thank you.

\***Copy of lawsuit available upon request.**