

March 17, 2009

Dear Attorney General Kelly A. Ayotte,

I am writing you today as a concerned citizen of New Hampshire, who would like to ask for your assistance. I spoke at the City Council meeting last night in Portsmouth, and as a result of questions and concerns I raised about the new pay-and-display parking meters from Cale Parking Systems, the President of that company said he is going to sue me. While I have not received the paperwork from a court as of now, I anticipate it will be along soon. I do not believe that vendors of towns and cities in NH can, or should, be able to sue a resident of NH for voicing a concern against a product or service.

I have enclosed a letter that I sent to the City Council members today, as well as a letter that I have forwarded to the Portsmouth Herald, entitled "Pay-and-Display parking meter company threatens to sue Portsmouth resident" for your review. In addition, I have enclosed copies of the email correspondence I have had with the President of Cale Parking Systems, George Levey. I have also posted a voicemail that he left me (<http://meters.portcityweb.com/voice-message.wav>), in which he threatens to sue me for my comments in an article run by the Portsmouth Herald, and in a Facebook group. All of these comments and concerns focus around credit card transmission security, and I think they are all valid concerns that need to be answered by the City and Cale Systems.

What I also find troubling is that Portsmouth City Councilor Ken Smith made a comment later in the meeting calling my claims, and claims by other people that do not support the new meters, as "misinformation". All along I, and other citizens of Portsmouth, have been asking for documentation to back up the City's claims about the new meters. The City and Cale Systems have declined to produce that information. Now, Councilor Smith, whom also is the chairman of the City's Parking Committee, is trying to discredit my concerns, and the concerns of other residents, calling our comments and concerns "misinformation".

The level of threats from Cale Systems, and Councilor Smith's attempt to discredit resident's comments by calling them "misinformation," raises big red flags. Myself, and others I have talked to, said it seems very suspicious, and we wonder if there isn't some inappropriate (or unlawful) deal between Smith and Cale Systems. In addition to asking you to look into violations of State law in regard to the threats from Cale, I am also asking for the NH Attorney General's Office to investigate the relationship between Councilor Ken Smith and Cale Parking Systems, to see if Councilor Smith will personally profit from the contract between Cale and Portsmouth.

Regards,

Erik Crago