



September 8, 2010

MR JONATHAN RINGO  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR  
ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
P O BOX 94004  
BATON ROUGE LA 70804-9004

Dear Mr. Ringo:

This letter will document your two phone calls to me today (both showing up as “blocked” phone numbers on my caller ID) in which, on your second phone call, you left a voice message asking me to call you. When I did so, you stated that, “We have problems on the Auctioneer’s Licensing Board. I’m sure you’re well aware of them, and it would be appropriate for you to submit your resignation at this time.” You further indicated that, “We have conferred extensively with the Inspector General’s Office and they concur with seeking your immediate resignation.” You also relayed, “Things just aren’t working out.”

As I ponder how to handle your request, I respectfully ask that you provide a rationale for why my resignation is being sought (beyond a “things just aren’t working out”). Upon being provided with more details on the rationale behind your request, I will ponder how I wish to handle the situation.

As you know, all LALB appointees serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Governor Jindal therefore does not need my resignation to remove me from the Board. I am going to use the words of my colleague and good friend, Freddie Phillips, in summing up my sentiments at present on your request: “I would rather the dog die on the trail than die in the pin.” Mr. Ringo, this dog remains on the trail. If you wish to shoot this dog, the Governor has the rifle. I am **not** inclined to go back into the pen and be self-euthanized, particularly in light of the vagueness of the rationale for your request and the fact you lacked the decency to call me from an unblocked phone number, which itself is an act I question on the part of any member of Governor Jindal’s staff.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Edwin Burns