

March 3, 1971

Mr. Gilbert M. Raphael, Chairman,
Skokie Caucus Party
8244 Kenton Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Dear Gil:

I have just learned that June Michaelson's appointment to the Human Relations Commission was not renewed for another term. Jackie Gorell and Jean Doney, to whom I have spoken about the matter, have explained this action on the basis of a Caucus Party policy decision that Commission appointments would not be given to persons who actively opposed the Caucus Party in the last election.

While I understand and agree with this policy as it applies to new appointees, I believe that other factors must enter into considerations of re-appointment. Principal among these are the performance of the candidate as a Commissioner, and the effect of the termination on the Commission as a whole.

June Michaelson has been one of our ablest, most active, most effective Commissioners. As head of our Education Committee, she has used her considerable PTA experience to establish liaison with the several school districts in Skokie and to mount programs in the schools which are just coming to fruition. Insofar as I can tell, she has scrupulously separated her Commission activities from her political involvements. I believe that both the operations and the morale of the Commission would be seriously impaired by failure to re-appoint her.

In addition, I would expect that termination of her appointment would be blown up by the opposition for political capital, and might harm the Caucus Party as well as impair the credibility of the Human Relations Commission as an impartial, non-political body comprising a cross-section of the citizenry.

For these reasons, I urge you to reconsider your action, and recommend prompt re-appointment of Mrs. Michaelson to another term.

Cordially yours,

Herman S. Bloch, Chairman

cc: Mayor Smith, Mrs. Gorell

2016.003.027