

Nathan J. Winograd

January 27, 2009

Margaret Downing
Managing Editor
Houston Press
By Fax and E-Mail: 713-280-2444

Dear Ms. Downing,

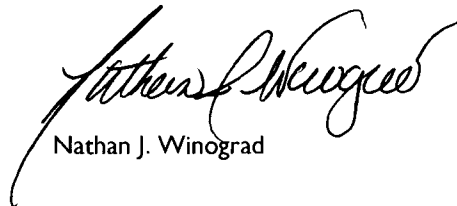
I just read the blog by Craig Malisow claiming he is going to show my "real" credentials in an in-depth piece about me in the *Houston Press* tomorrow. I was always concerned about the tenor of his questions, feeling he was looking for dirt on me, rather than focusing on the issue at hand: shelter reform in Houston. I suggested that rather than talking to only detractors, he speak to successful shelter directors such as Bonney Brown in Reno, Suzanne Kogut in Charlottesville, and Abigail Smith in Tompkins. He chose not to.

Instead, he sent me the enclosed e-mail attempting to black mail me for money. When I challenged him on it, he claimed it was just a joke, but his refusal to speak to successful shelter directors, and his teaser of somehow exposing me, the tenor of his questions, and the fact that it is not funny, unprofessional, and in fact is blackmail on its face, puts his claim of trying to be funny into doubt. It has also caused me great personal distress.

After I received this e-mail, I debated not responding to further e-mails, but frankly, I feared not being supported by his superiors, and angering him further. But I see now that an appeal to fairness with Mr. Malisow has fallen on deaf ears. I am asking that the *Houston Press* look into the matter, censure Mr. Malisow, and preempt the publication of any hit piece. It isn't fair and it isn't right.

Trying to blackmail someone is neither funny nor professional. It is, in fact, illegal. Of course, I didn't pay the cash but maybe my detractors did? Even if it was a joke, it shows a remarkable level of unprofessionalism and lack of sense. Please do what is right.

Very truly yours,



Nathan J. Winograd

Re: Did I get everything?

Subject: Re: Did I get everything?
From: "Craig Malisow" <Craig.Malisow@houstonpress.com>
Date: Tue, 13 Jan 2009 13:52:48 -0700
To: <winograd@nokillsolutions.com>

Just \$500. I take cash and money orders.

>>> <winograd@nokillsolutions.com> 1/13/2009 2:51 PM >>>
Hi Craig,

Do I owe you anything else?

Nathan