



## Executive Office, City of Providence, Rhode Island

VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.

MAYOR

February 1, 2000

Mr. Louis H. Rago  
Italian American  
Human Relations Foundation of Chicago  
7751 West Irving Park Road  
Chicago, IL 60634

Dear Louis:

I very much appreciate your letter of support in regard to my refusal to sponsor HBO's season kick-off celebration of *The Sopranos*. There is no getting away from the fact that the series, no matter how popular, typecasts Italian Americans in a damagingly negative manner. That the show focuses upon a miniscule number of Italian Americans for reasons of sensationalism reveals the degree to which the whole enterprise is purely profit-driven.

The city of Providence has a rich history of achievement by many immigrant groups, a dynamic that continues to this day with vibrant and growing Southeast Asian and Latino populations. Our history is replete with the outstanding contributions Italian Americans have made in numerous endeavors. In reply to the *The Sopranos*' harsh dissonance, I'm one elected official singing a beautiful aria of praise of my Italian heritage and those who share it.

Again, many thanks for your support and your championship of Italian Americans and their inspiring legacy in our nation. I send my best wishes and regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.  
Mayor of Providence

VAC:ktf