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# Key exchanges in City Hall probe

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BEN STAS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

**City Hall Plaza is illuminated on the opening night of Boston Calling.**

**By Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF JUNE 29, 2016

Two high-ranking members of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh's administration now face charges that they forced organizers of a music festival to hire unneeded union stagehands for the event two years ago.

Timothy Sullivan, the city's acting director of intergovernmental relations, was arrested Wednesday

after being indicted by a grand jury, while Kenneth Brissette, the city's tourism director, was arrested and indicted in May.

The two allegedly colluded to withhold permits from the Boston Calling festival until it hired union stagehands from the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 11.

E-mails released previously by the city under a public records request linked Sullivan to private discussions with Boston Calling in the weeks leading up to its September 2014 event on City Hall Plaza.

- On June 27, 2014, Brissette wrote to Sullivan to say he would be hosting a meeting with IATSE on July 8. Sullivan replied:

*“Thank you.”*

## **Sullivan is steeped in union history, like the mayor he serves**

Tim Sullivan was charged in a federal indictment released Wednesday that alleges he conspired in 2014 to withhold critical city permits.

- In an Aug. 20, 2014, e-mail, Colleen A. Glynn, business manager for IATSE Local 11, e-mailed Sullivan a copy of a proposed contract for Boston Calling to hire union members.

*“Attached you will find a draft agreement for Boston Calling for your review. Please pass it along to*



*the production team ... I'm confident we can get a deal for a dozen or so stagehands especially with Mayor Walsh's backing."*

- The original Brissette indictment also referenced a critical Sept. 2, 2014, meeting, where, "as a result of the demands made by Brissette and others," Boston Calling relented and hired union stagehands. The indictment did not identify all the participants of the Sept. 2 meeting, but Brian Appel, a Boston Calling cofounder, e-mailed Brissette and Sullivan the afternoon of Sept. 2 saying:

*"Thanks for the time today."*

Appel's e-mail continued, apparently referring to Glynn, of Local 11.

*"I received a message from Colleen at IATSE already. Will wait to hear back from you regarding our discussion before calling her back."*

Festival organizers ultimately hired eight union laborers and one foreman they did not want or need, according to the superseding indictment. The festival was held from Sept. 5 through Sept. 7.

*Mark Arsenault, John R. Ellement, and Andrew Ryan of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter @mrochele*

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