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NY Senate IDC Members Strip Malcolm Smith Of Power, Seek Distance From Federal Probe

BY CELESTE KATZ

Queens state Sen. [Malcolm Smith's](#) entanglement in [federal allegations of plotting to use bribes to get into the Republican primary for mayor](#) have cost him his relatively new leadership post with the chamber's [Independent Democratic Conference](#).

"These are very serious allegations that, if true, constitute a clear betrayal of the public trust. As a result of these charges, I have made the decision to strip Senator Smith of his committee assignments and of his conference leadership position," said IDC Leader Jeff Klein of the Bronx.

Klein, as you can tell from this photo passed on by our Glenn Blain, moved fast to scrub the entrance of Smith's Albany office of any claim to IDC fame.

"By participating in the alleged scheme, Senator Smith breached the trust of the Independent Democratic Conference. I trust that the U.S. attorney's office will act expeditiously to resolve this matter and to ensure that justice is served," Klein's statement continues.

"Finally, given the level of criminality alleged, I believe that Senator Smith should seriously consider whether or not he can continue to effectively serve his constituents."

A Smith spokesman [has said the senator will be vindicated](#) when all the facts come to light about the investigation, which the feds say [involved hush-hush meetings in hotels, restaurants and cars and open negotiations about cash payoffs](#).

Smith -- who was a top Democratic conference leader before his party lost control of the Senate -- joined the breakaway conference late last year, [but insisted at the time that the move was unrelated to any mayoral aspirations](#).

Another IDC member, Sen. David Carlucci -- who represents Spring Valley in Rockland County, which, of course, figures prominently in today's case -- put out a lengthy statement of his own, which follows.

"Like many New Yorkers, I am shocked and outraged over the alleged misconduct undertaken by various public officials at the state, city, and local government. This conduct is reprehensible in its entirety, and public corruption in any form cannot be tolerated at any layer of government.

"I look forward to hearing the details of this wide-ranging investigation as they begin to unfold. As the United States Attorney had indicated, in no way whatsoever was I, or any member of my staff, involved in the alleged criminal misconduct and subsequent charges filed this morning. On the contrary, these actions speak to a broader, more fundamental reason as to why I ran for office in the first place -- to clean up the culture of corruption that pervades our politics."

"Three years ago I came to Albany to shake up the status quo and bring change to our State Capital. While we have made great strides since, there clearly remains much more work to be done. I am committed to working to reform our system of government in a way that increases transparency and holds public officials accountable to the people they serve."

[CHECK HERE FOR UPDATES ON THIS DEVELOPING STORY](#)

Our Ken Lovett noted earlier that Gov. Cuomo has called the investigation serious; state GOP Chairman Ed Cox, in a statement, has also urged swift justice in the case.

"The arrest of elected and party officials this morning is deeply concerning. I urge federal and state law enforcement officials to do their jobs as thoroughly and expeditiously as possible to determine the guilt or innocence of those accused. The integrity of the electoral process for the voters of New York City must be preserved."

TAGS:

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